

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES



SEGA

SONIC



THE HEDGEHOG

THE
STORY THAT
WAS **TOO BIG**
FOR A SINGLE
ISSUE!!

THE
125TH

ISSUE
EXTRAVAGANZA
STARTS HERE—

SONIC
ADVENTURE
2.5:
ALPHA



SPAZ
NIBETRO
J.D. RAY

PLUS:

IN THIS CURRENT
CHAPTER OF
THE LATEST
ECHIDNA EPIC,
KNUCKLES
FINDS HIMSELF
GETTING USED
TO LIVING IN
THE "AFTERLIFE"



WHERE... AM I? FEEL...
DISORIENTED...

ONE VESSEL
ON APPROACH...

SONIC ADVENTURE 2.5: ALPHA

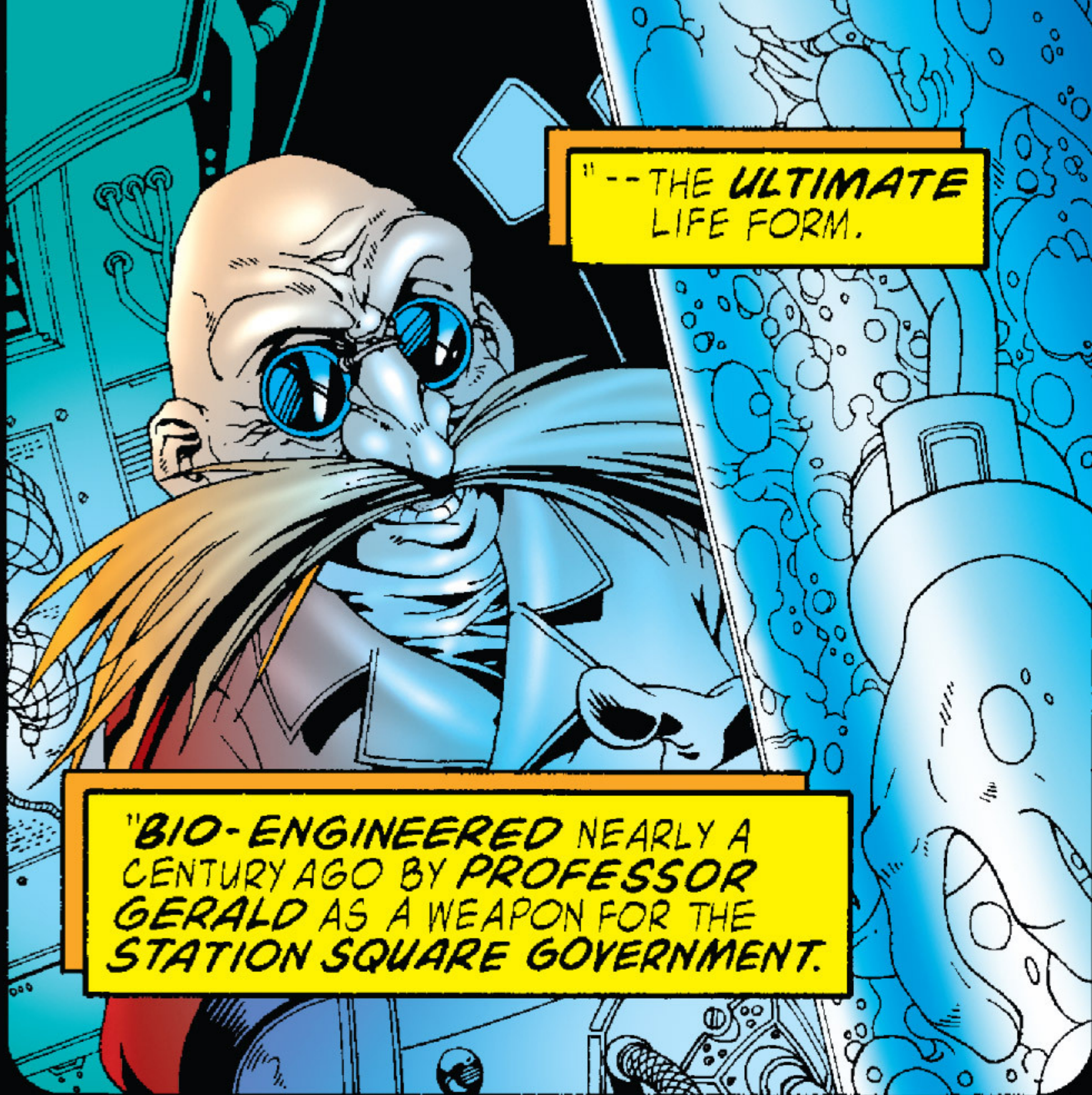
- STORY -
KARL BOLLERS
- PENCILS -
J. AXER [pp. 1-5]
STEVEN BUTLER [pp. 6-19]
- INKS -
CONOR TOMAS [pp. 1-5]
JIM AMASH [pp. 6-19]
- COLORS -
JASON JENSEN
- LETTERER -
JEFF POWELL
- EDITOR -
J.F. GABRIE
- MANAGING EDITOR -
VICTOR GORELICK
- EDITOR IN CHIEF -
RICHARD GOLDWATER

...AND
ANOTHER
ONE LEAVING.
WHY?

SO MANY
QUESTIONS.

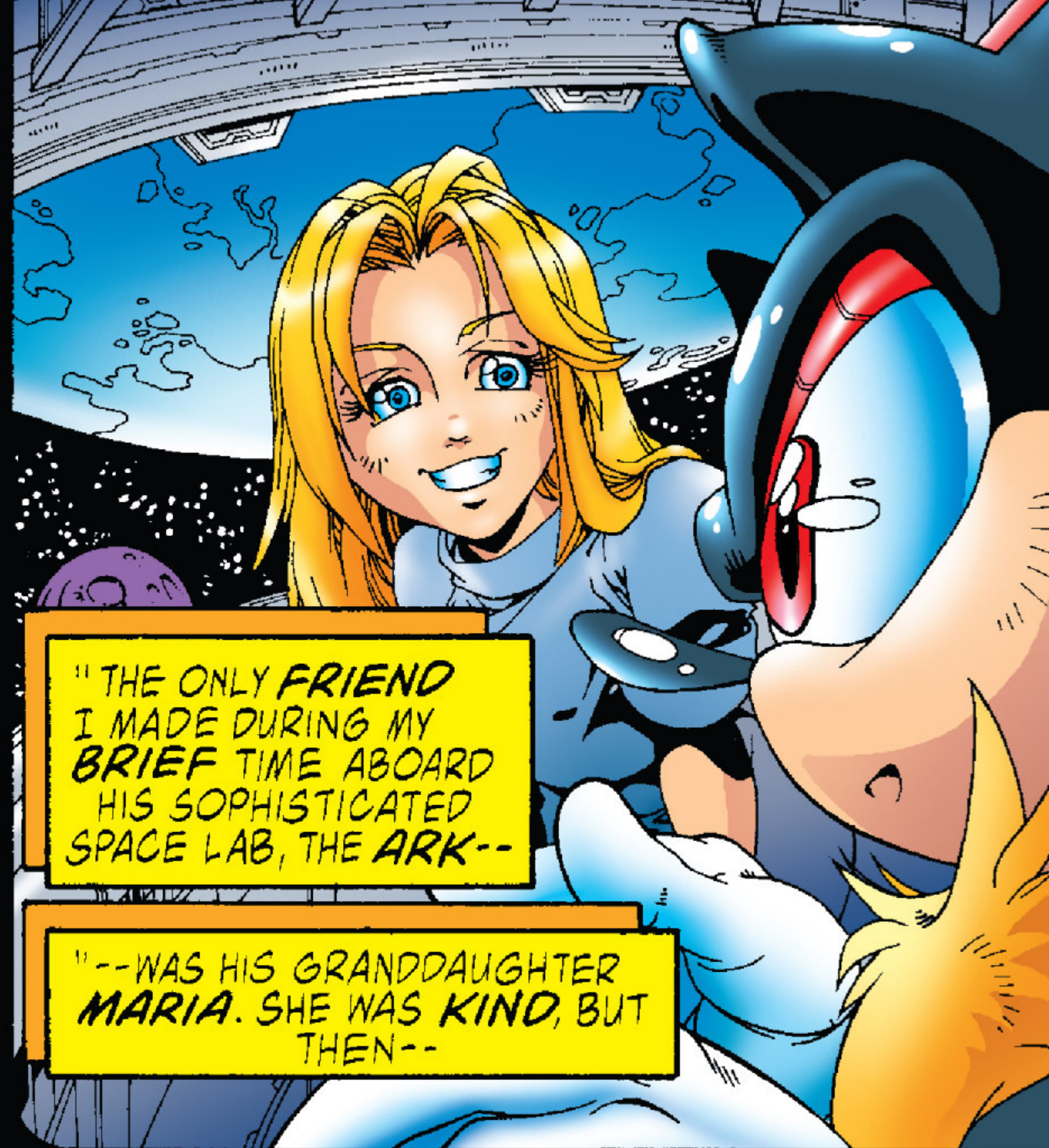
WAIT. I
REMEMBER.

I AM SHADOW
THE HEDGEHOG.



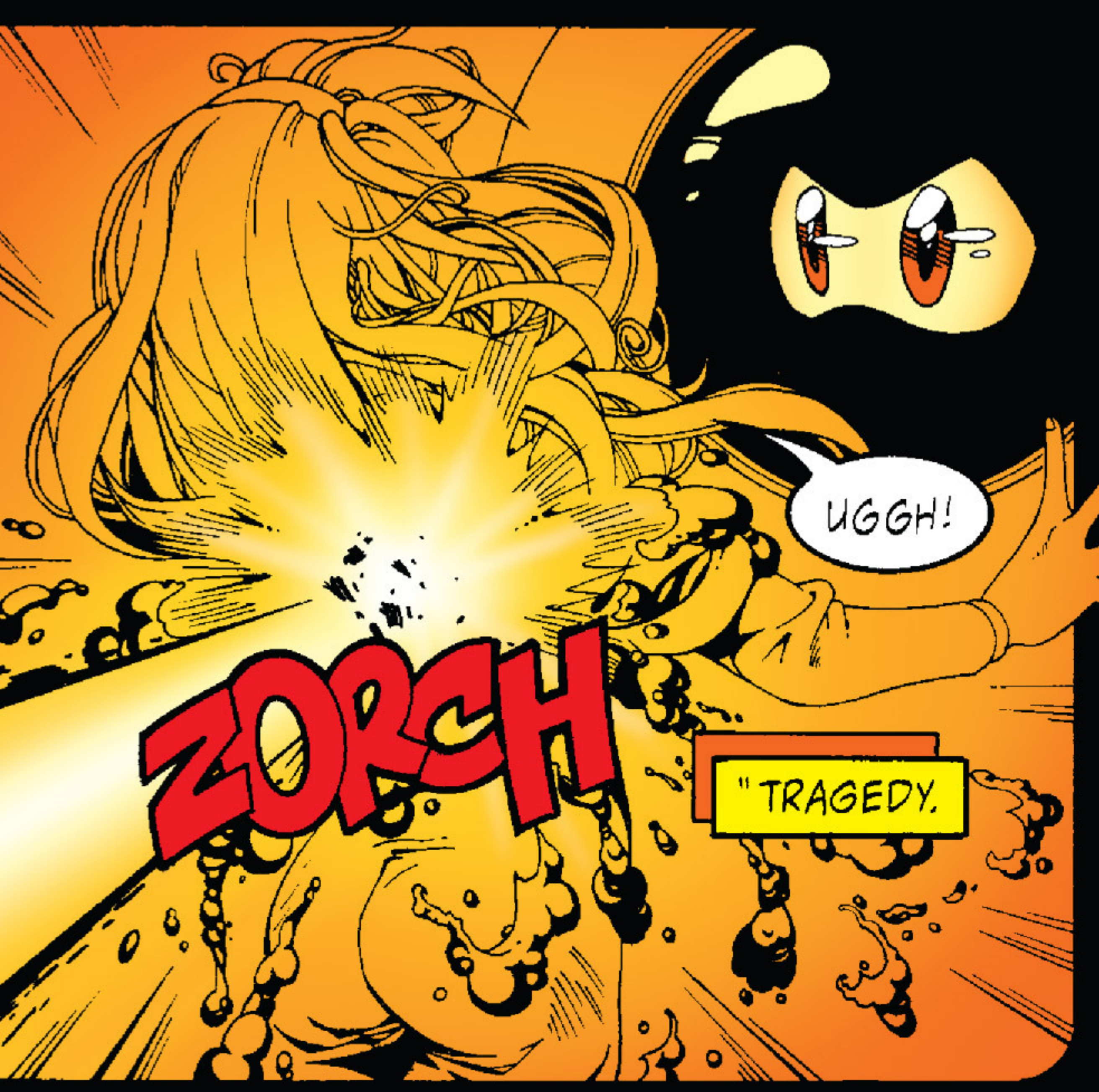
"--THE **ULTIMATE** LIFE FORM.

"**BIO-ENGINEERED** NEARLY A CENTURY AGO BY **PROFESSOR GERALD** AS A WEAPON FOR THE **STATION SQUARE GOVERNMENT**.



"THE ONLY **FRIEND** I MADE DURING MY **BRIEF** TIME ABOARD HIS **SOPHISTICATED** SPACE LAB, THE **ARK--**

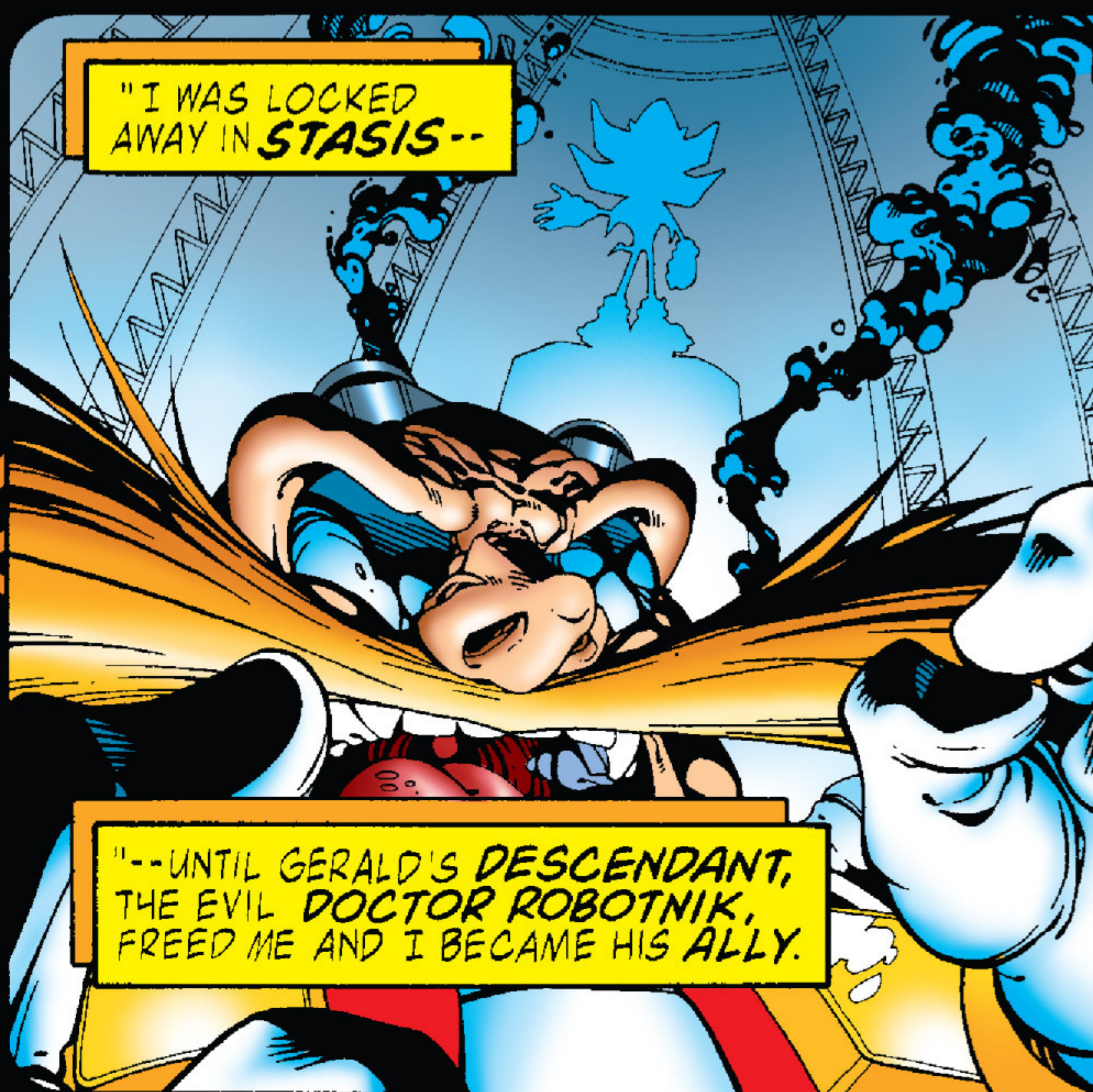
"--WAS HIS **GRANDDAUGHTER MARIA**. SHE WAS **KIND**, BUT THEN--



UGGH!

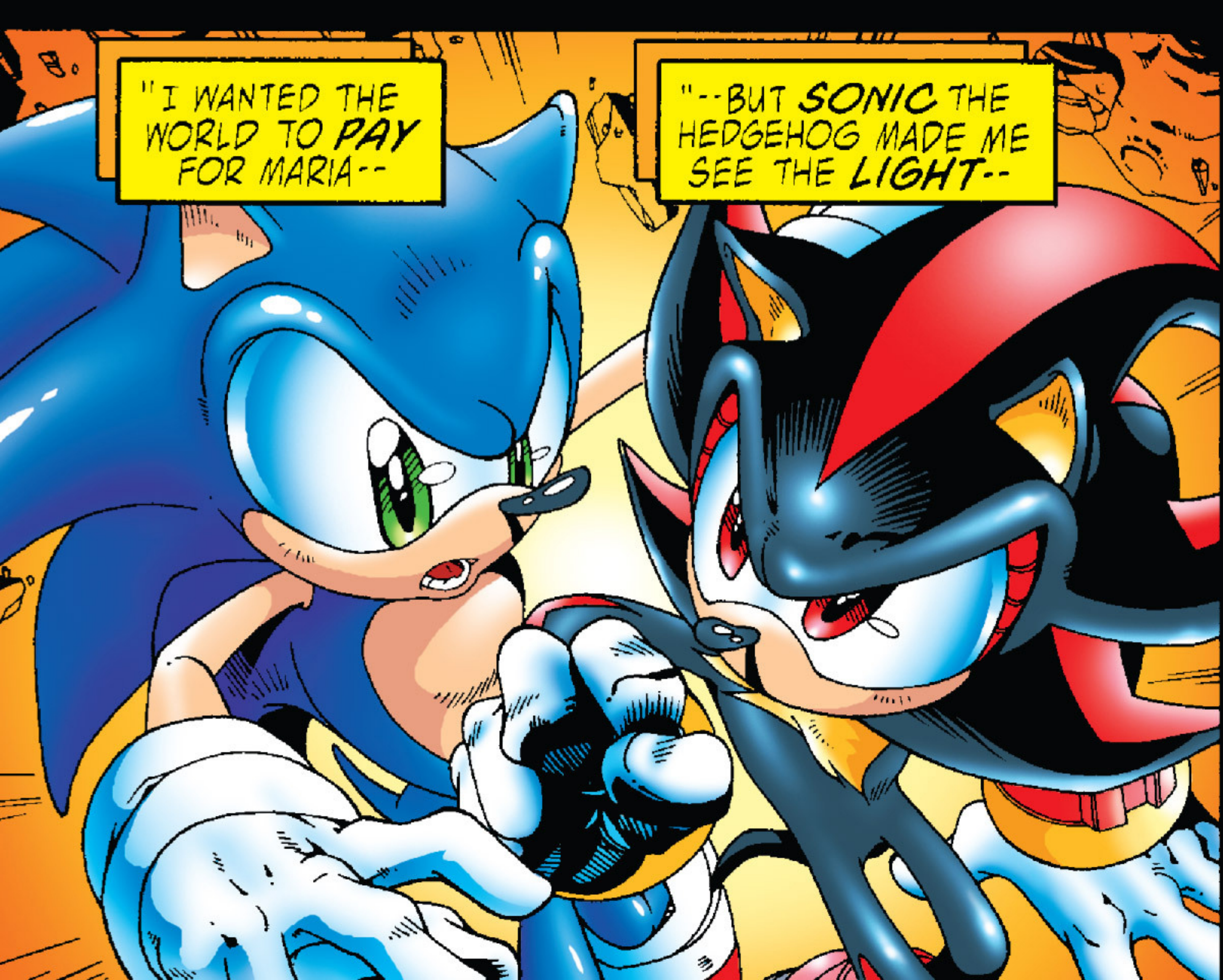
ZORCH

"**TRAGEDY**.



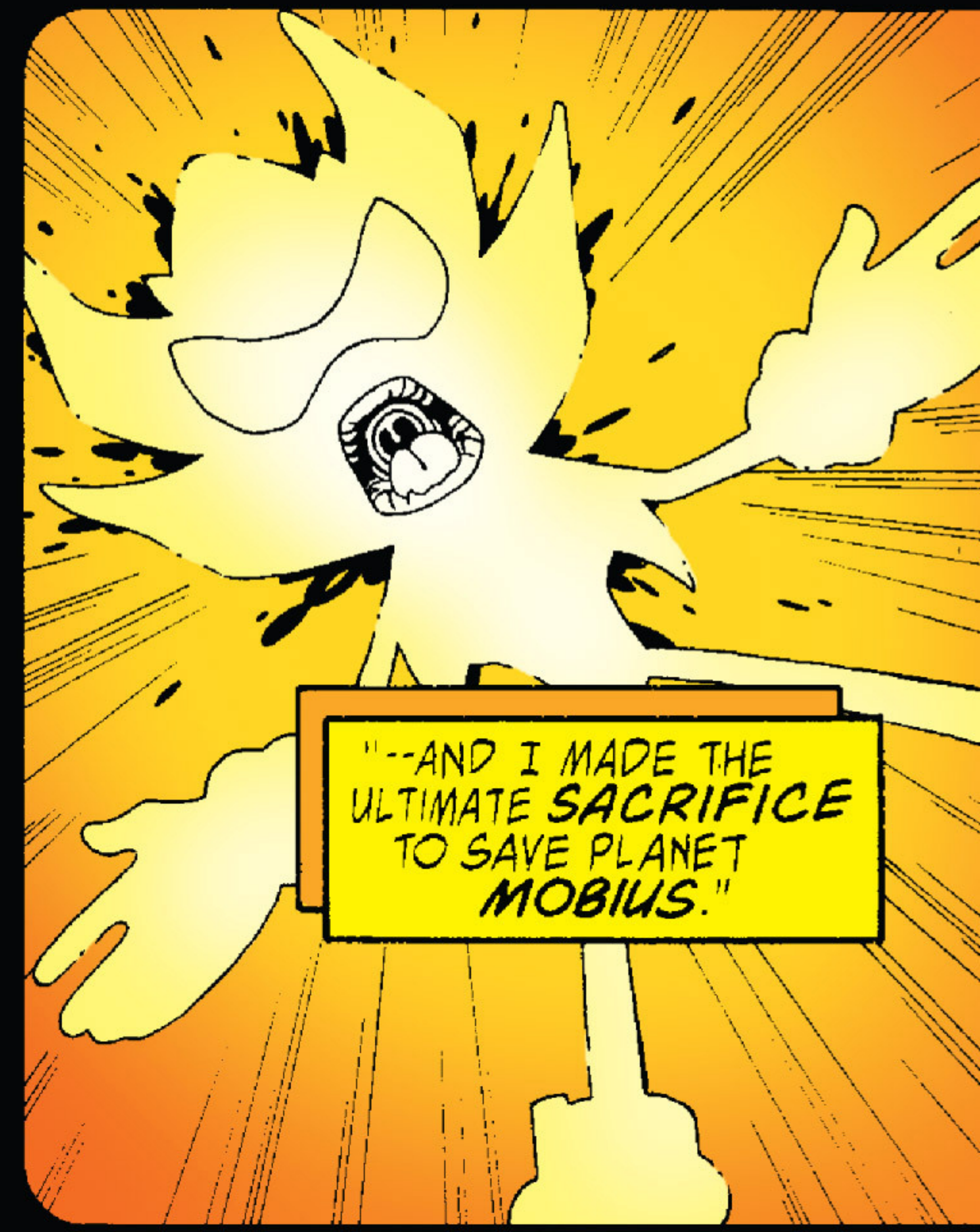
"I WAS **LOCKED** AWAY IN **STASIS--**

"--UNTIL **GERALD'S** **DESCENDANT**, THE **EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK**, **FREED** ME AND I BECAME HIS **ALLY**.

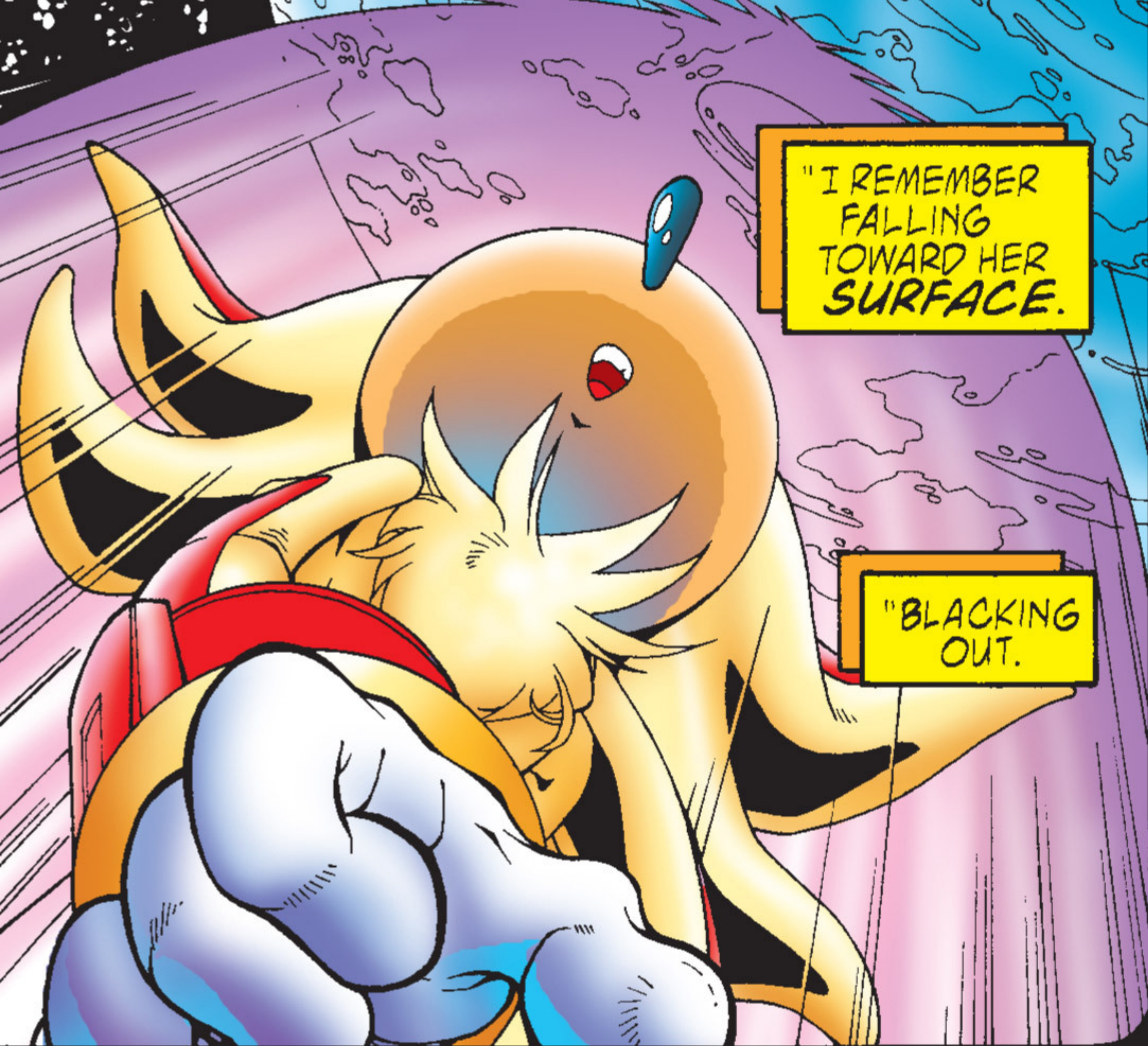


"I WANTED THE **WORLD** TO **PAY** FOR **MARIA--**

"--BUT **SONIC** THE **HEDGEHOG** MADE ME **SEE** THE **LIGHT--**

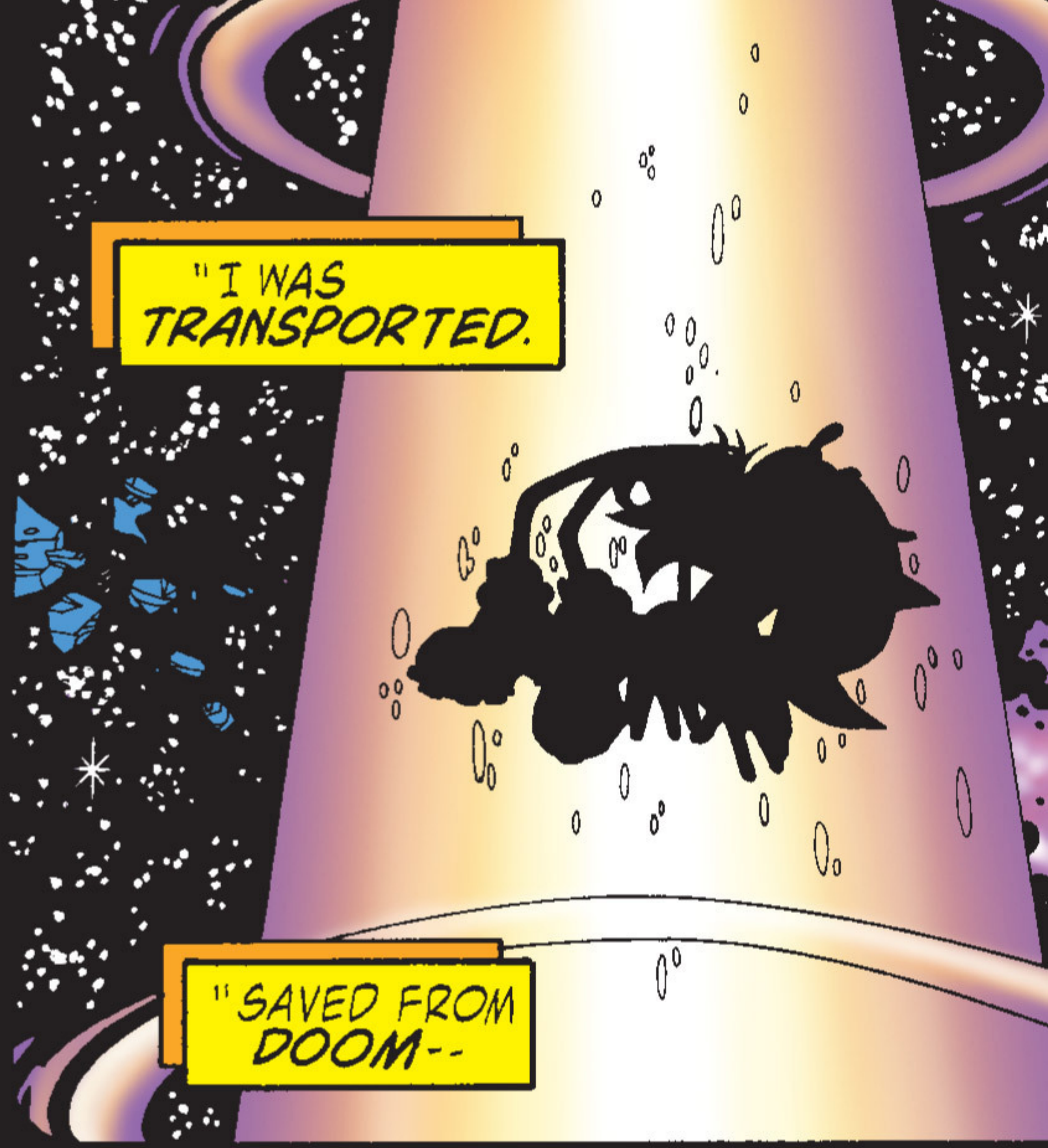


"--AND I MADE THE **ULTIMATE SACRIFICE** TO **SAVE** **PLANET MOBIUS**."



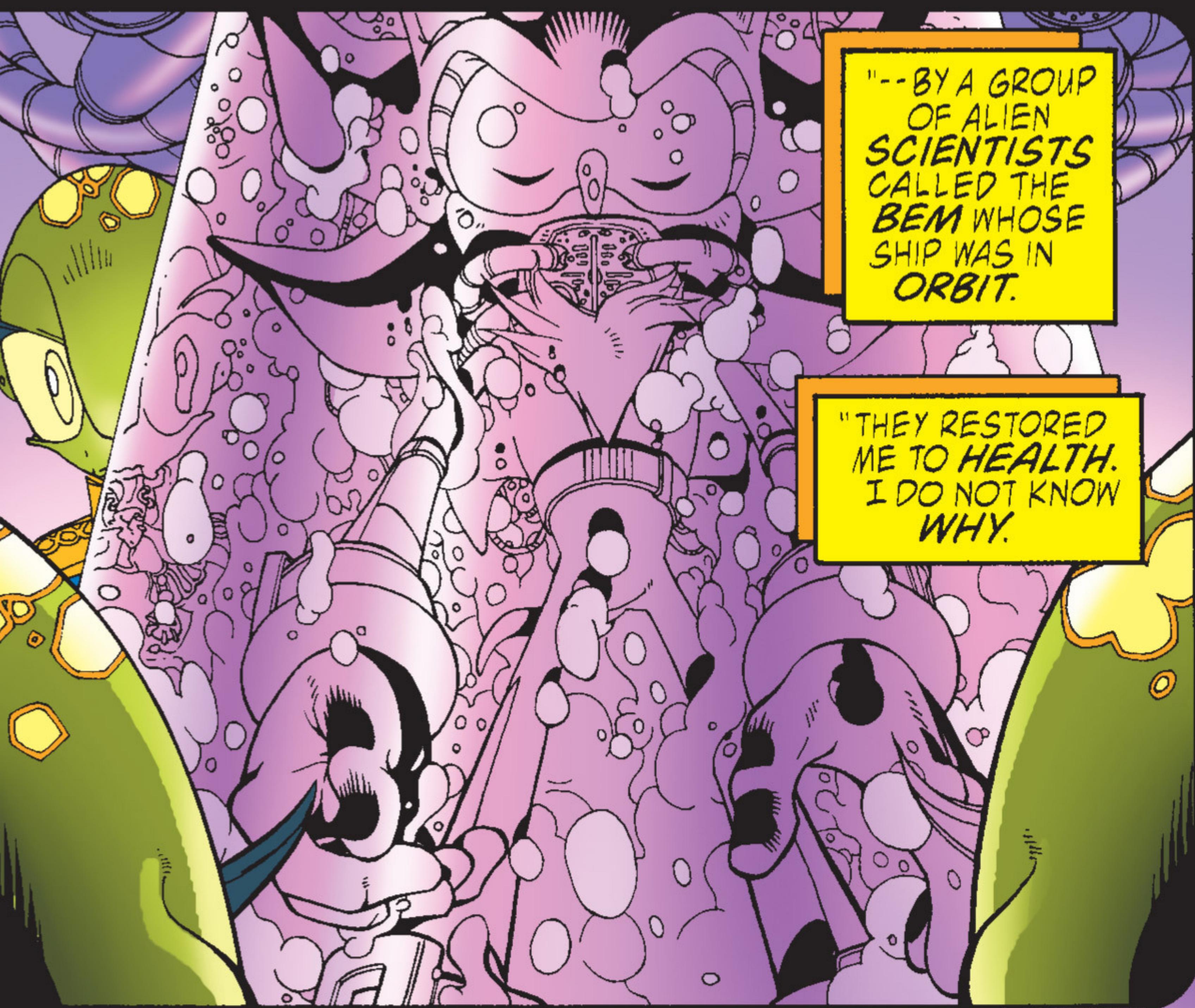
"I REMEMBER FALLING TOWARD HER SURFACE."

"BLACKING OUT."



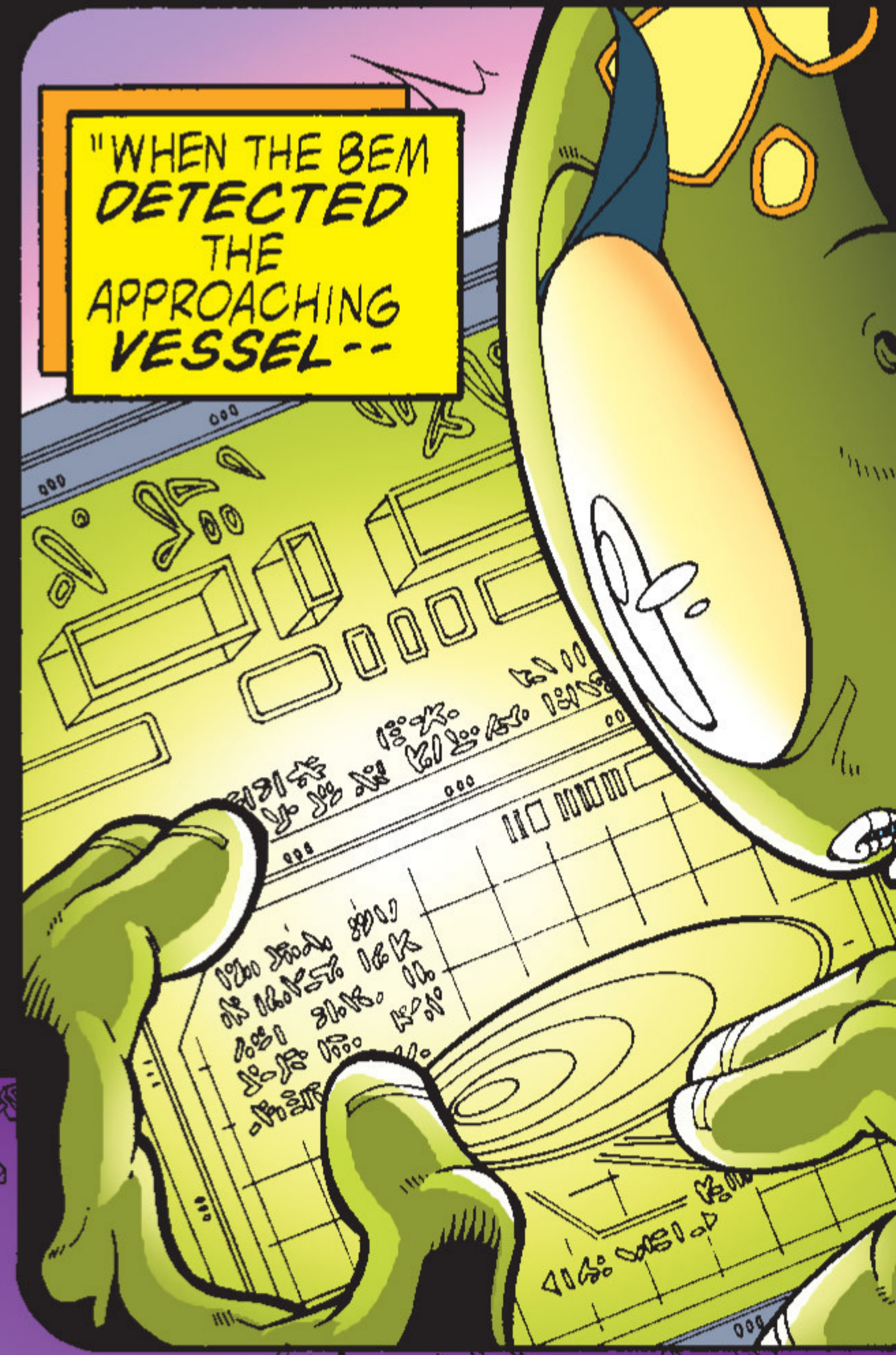
"I WAS TRANSPORTED."

"SAVED FROM DOOM--"



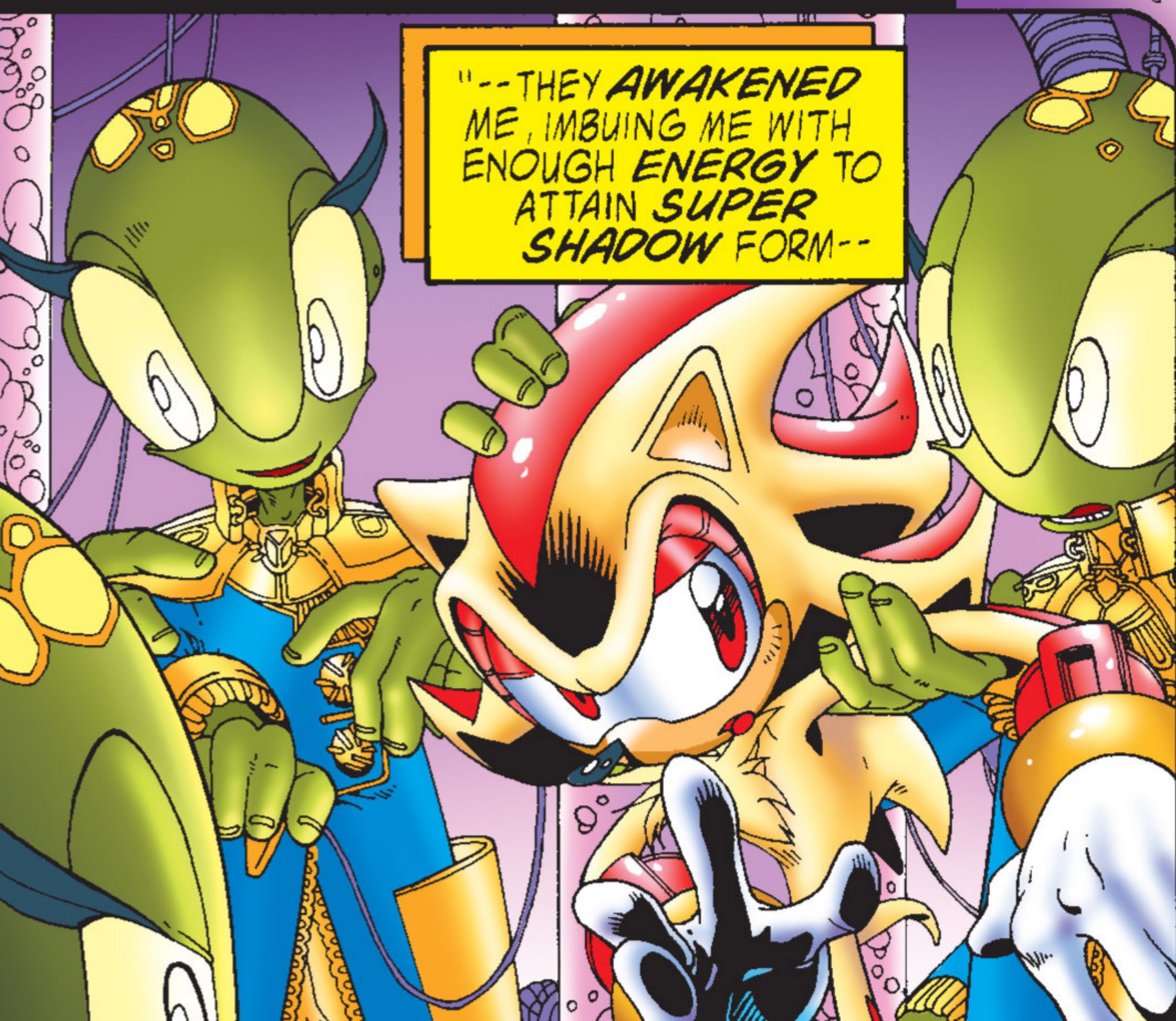
"-- BY A GROUP OF ALIEN SCIENTISTS CALLED THE BEM WHOSE SHIP WAS IN ORBIT."

"THEY RESTORED ME TO HEALTH. I DO NOT KNOW WHY."



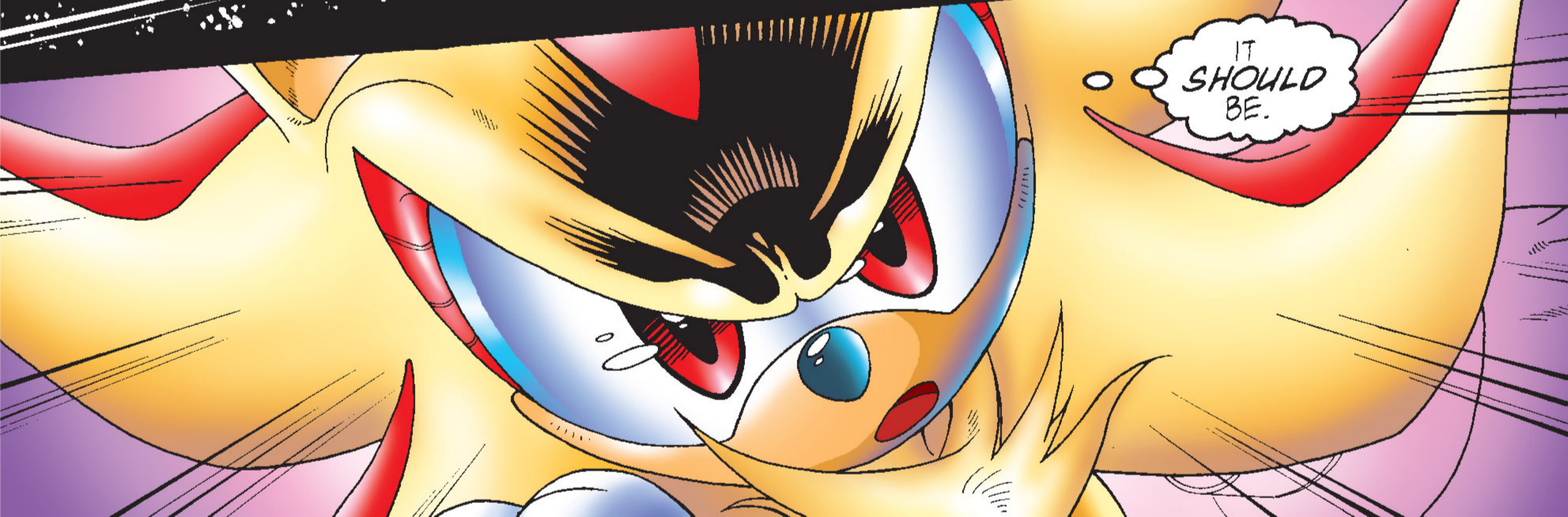
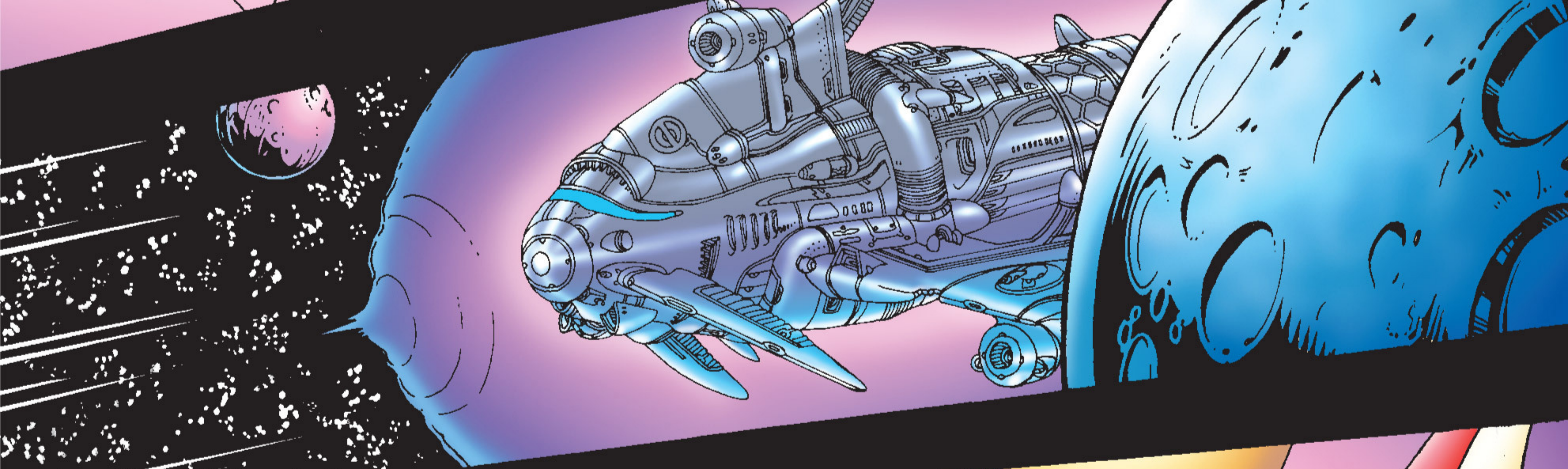
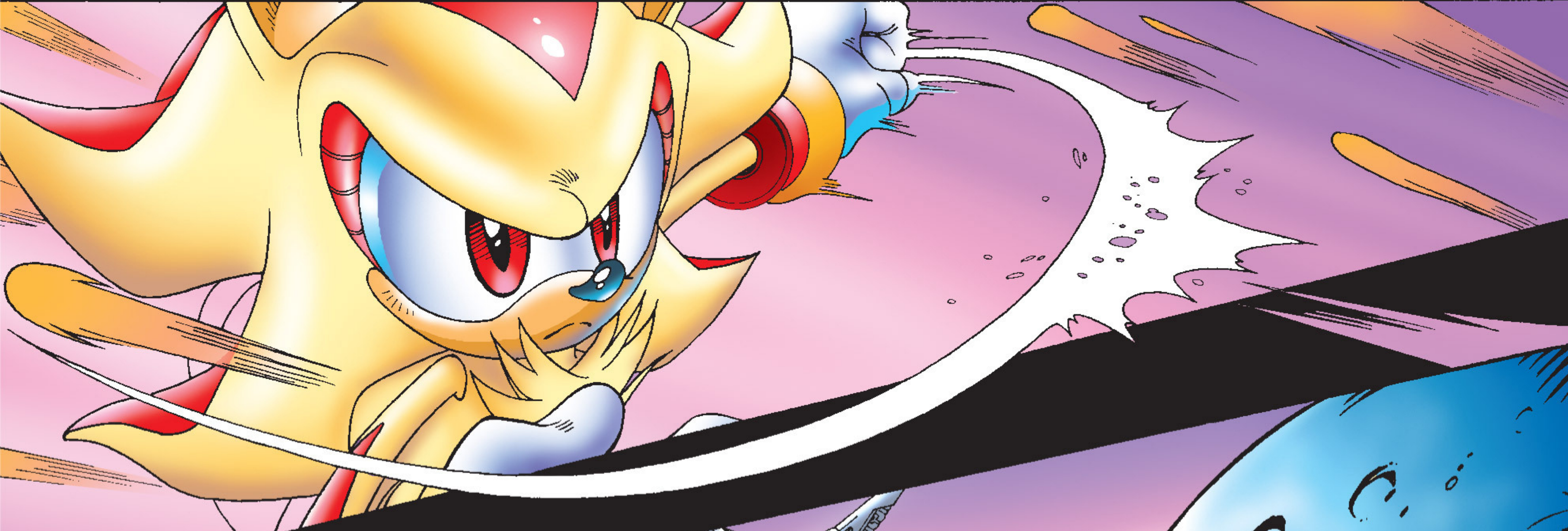
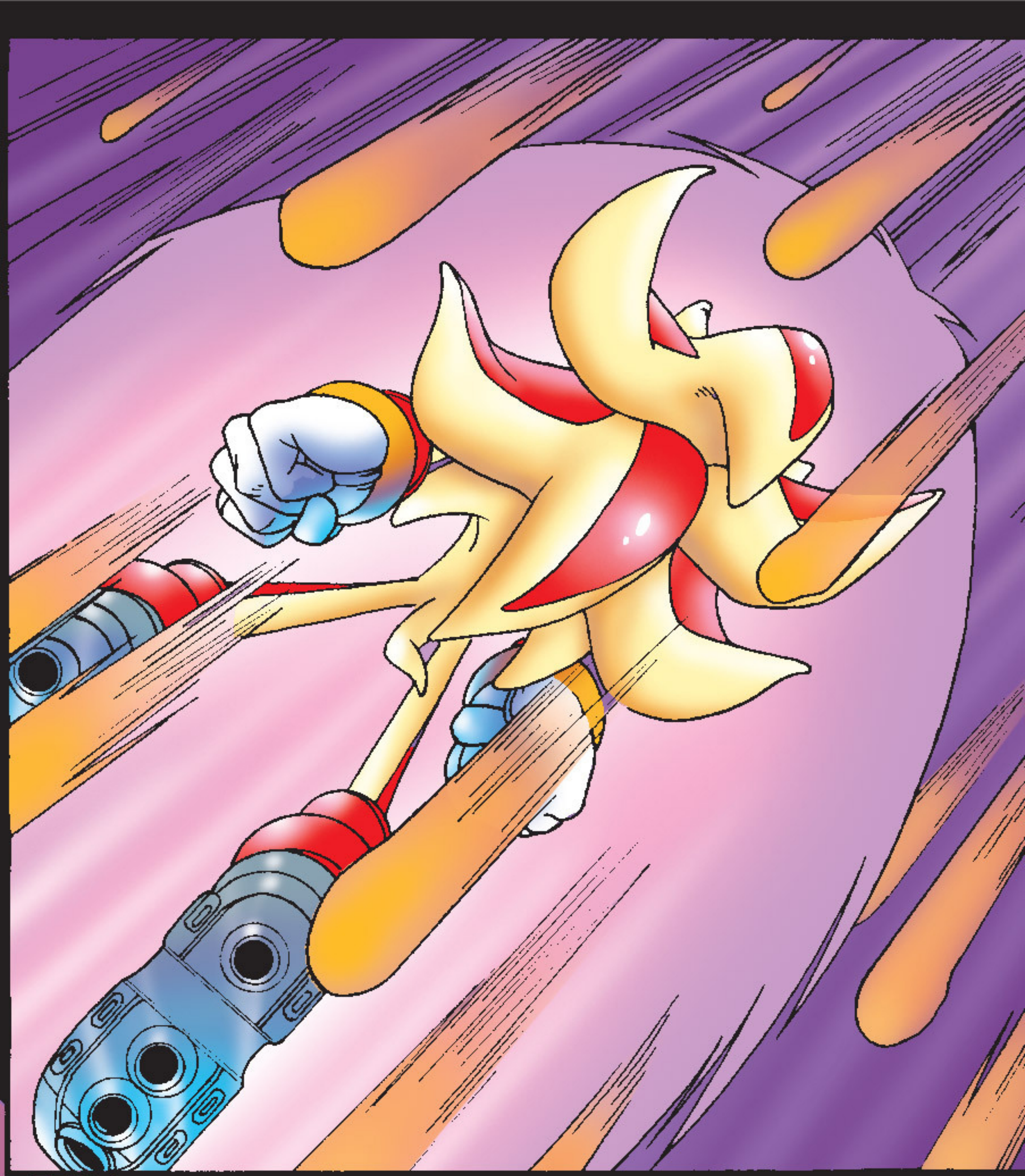
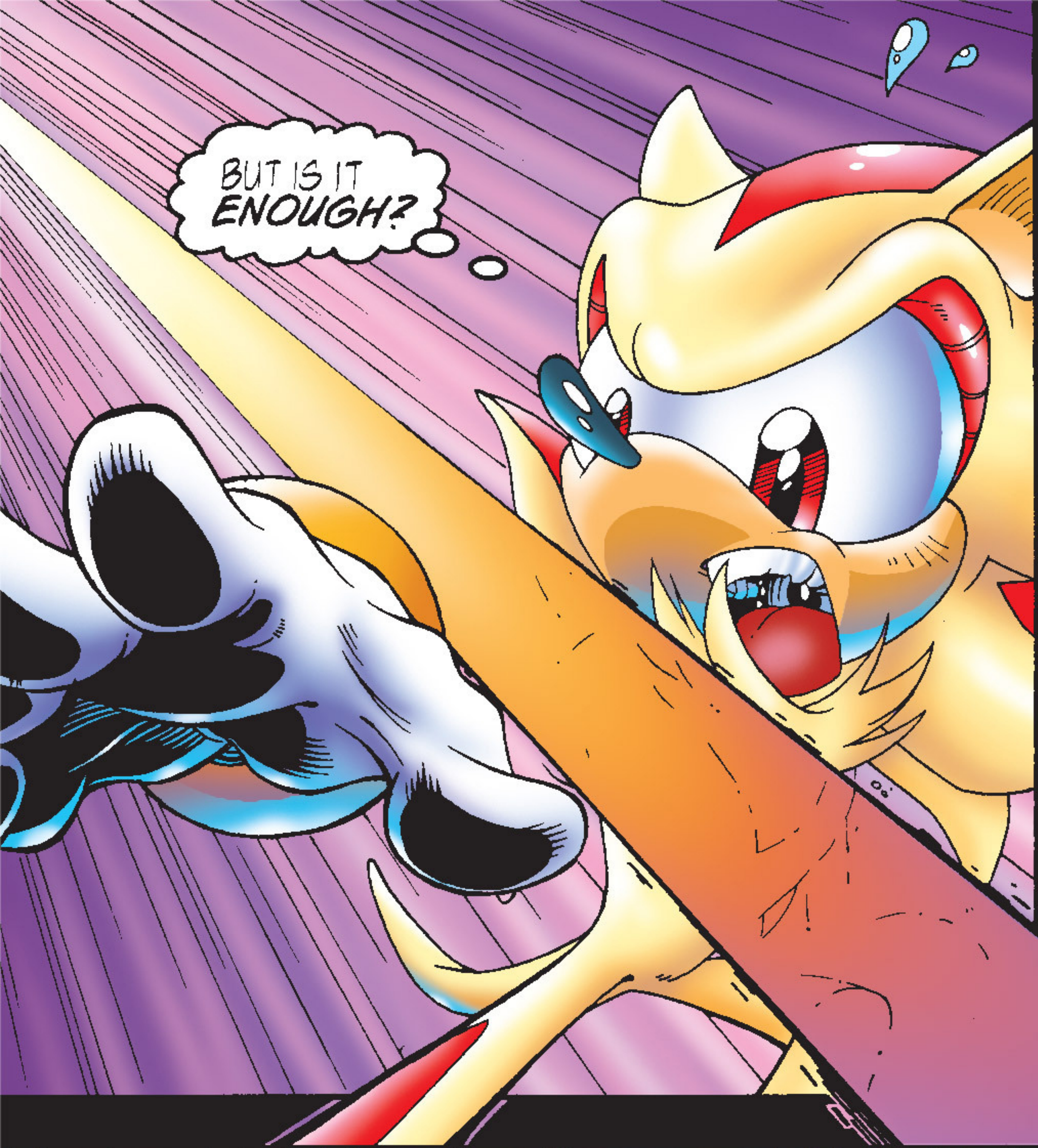
"WHEN THE BEM DETECTED THE APPROACHING VESSEL--"

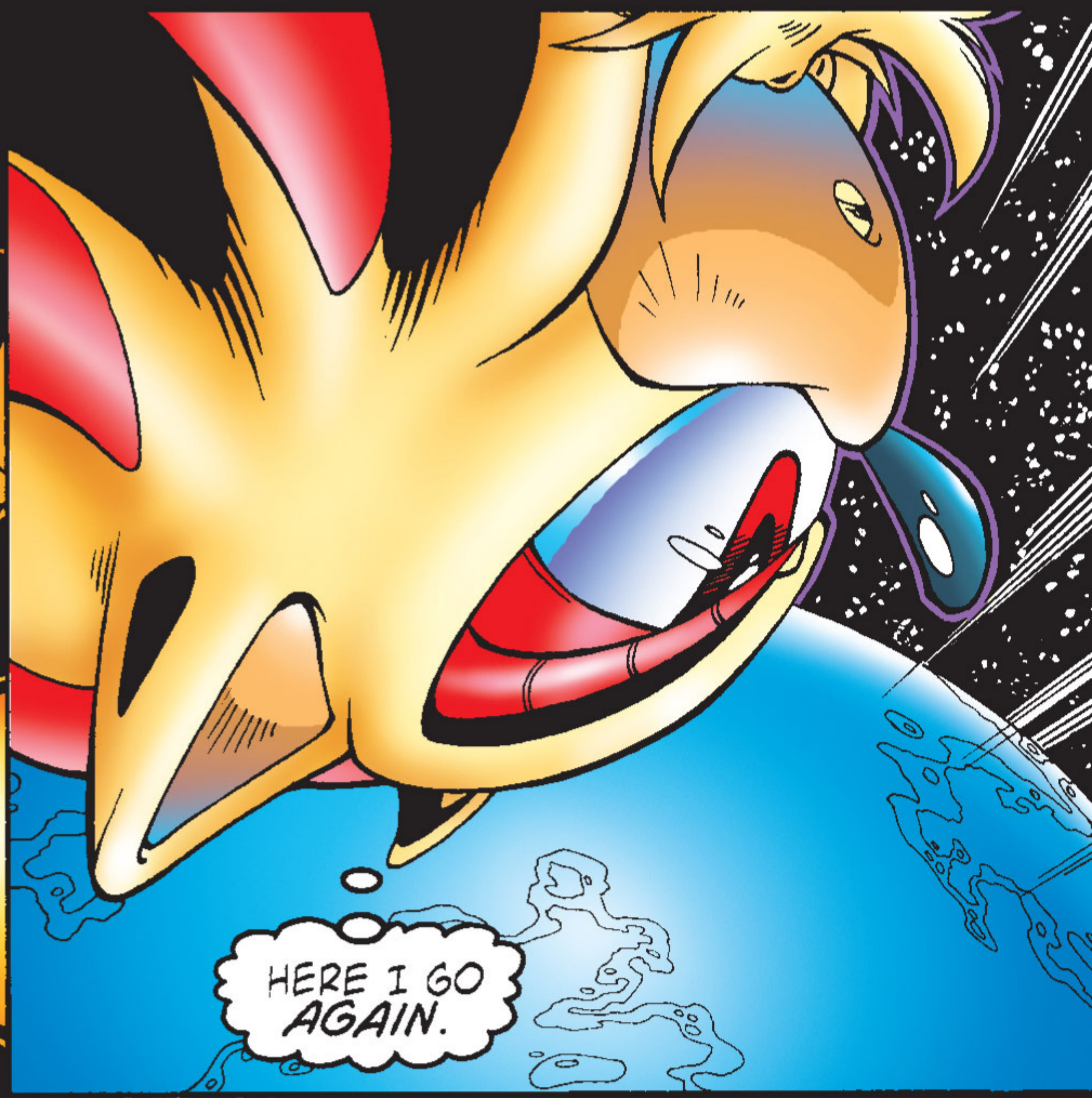
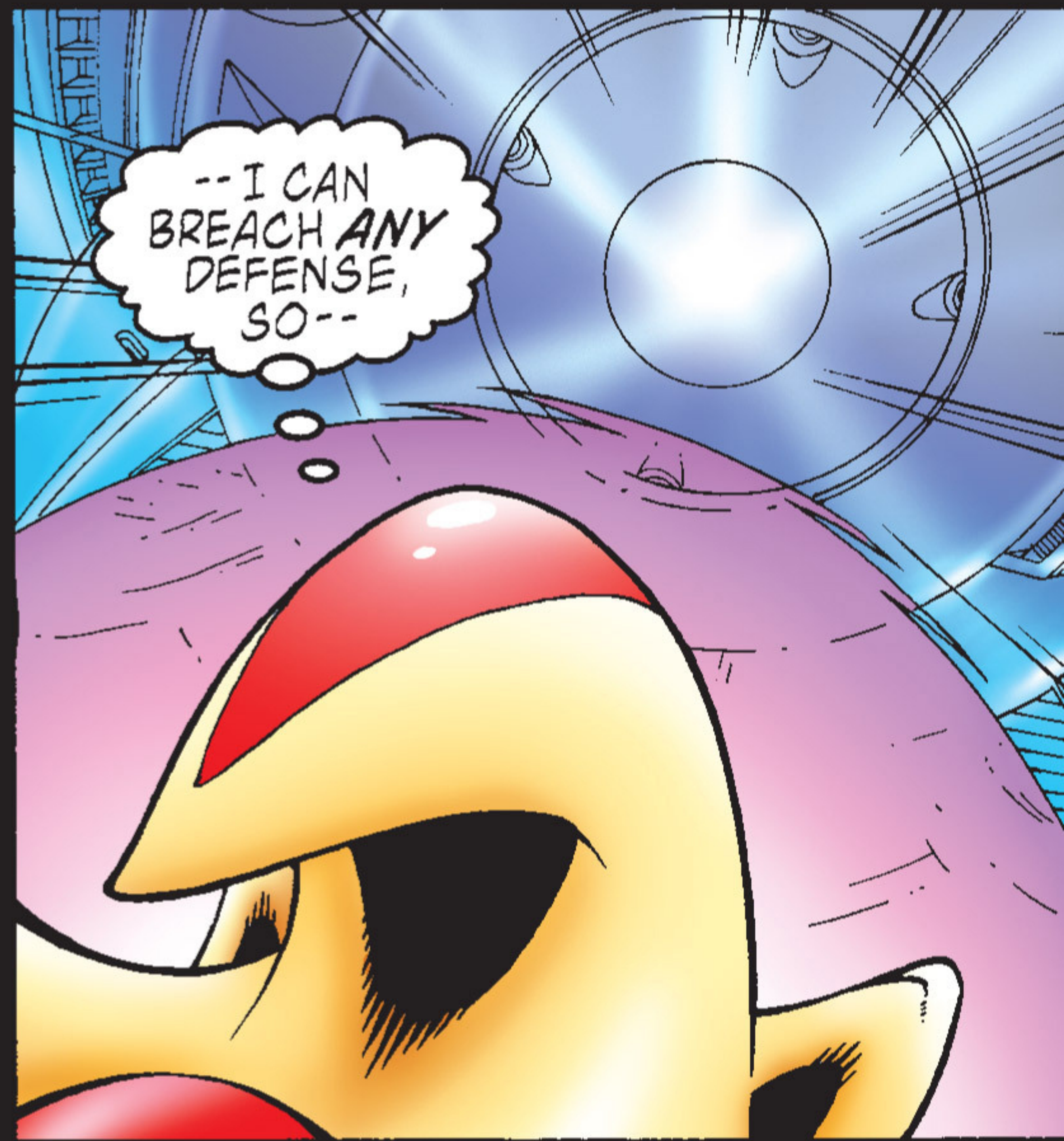
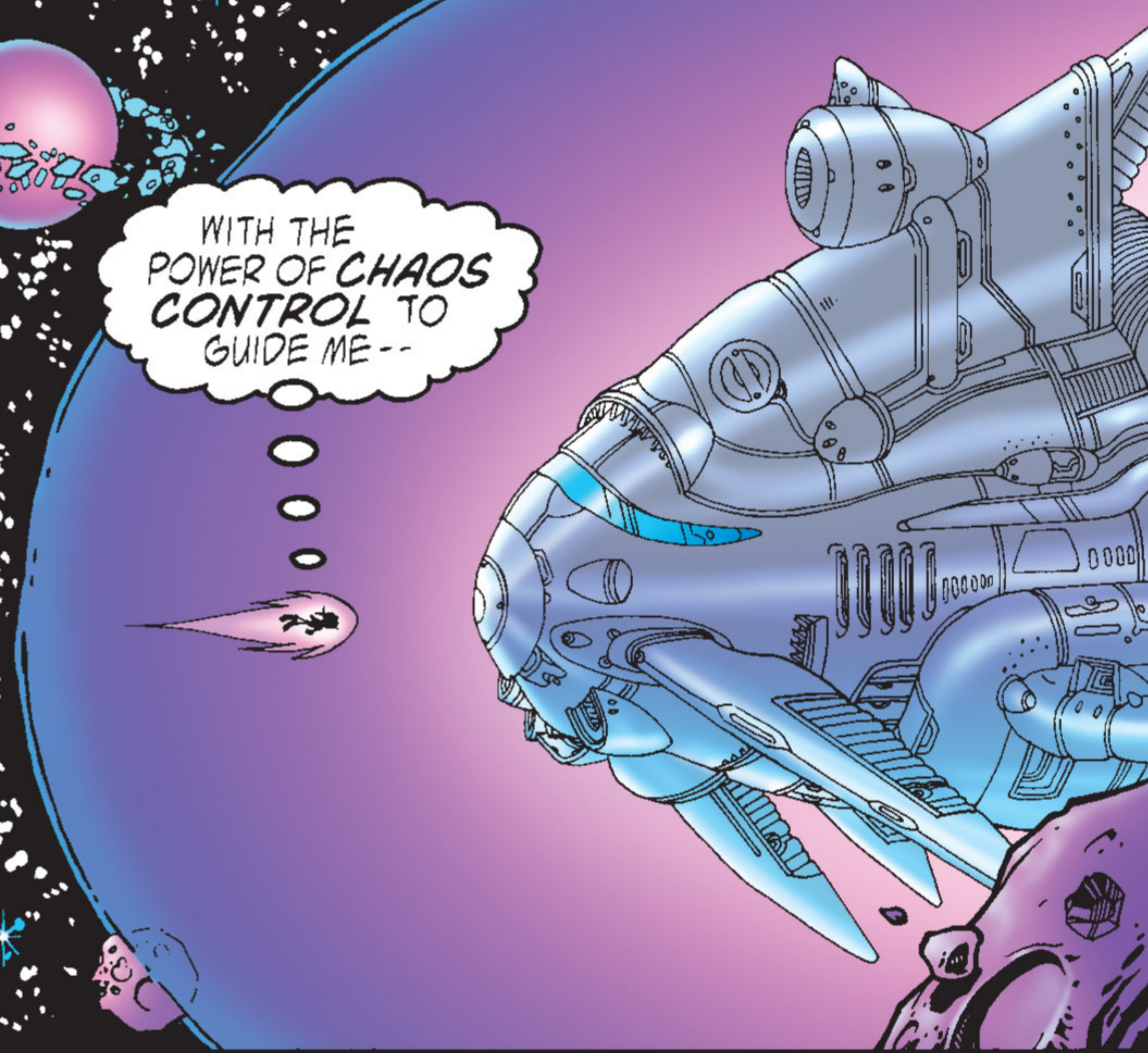
--TO BATTLE THIS NEW THREAT WHILE THEY MADE THEIR ESCAPE."

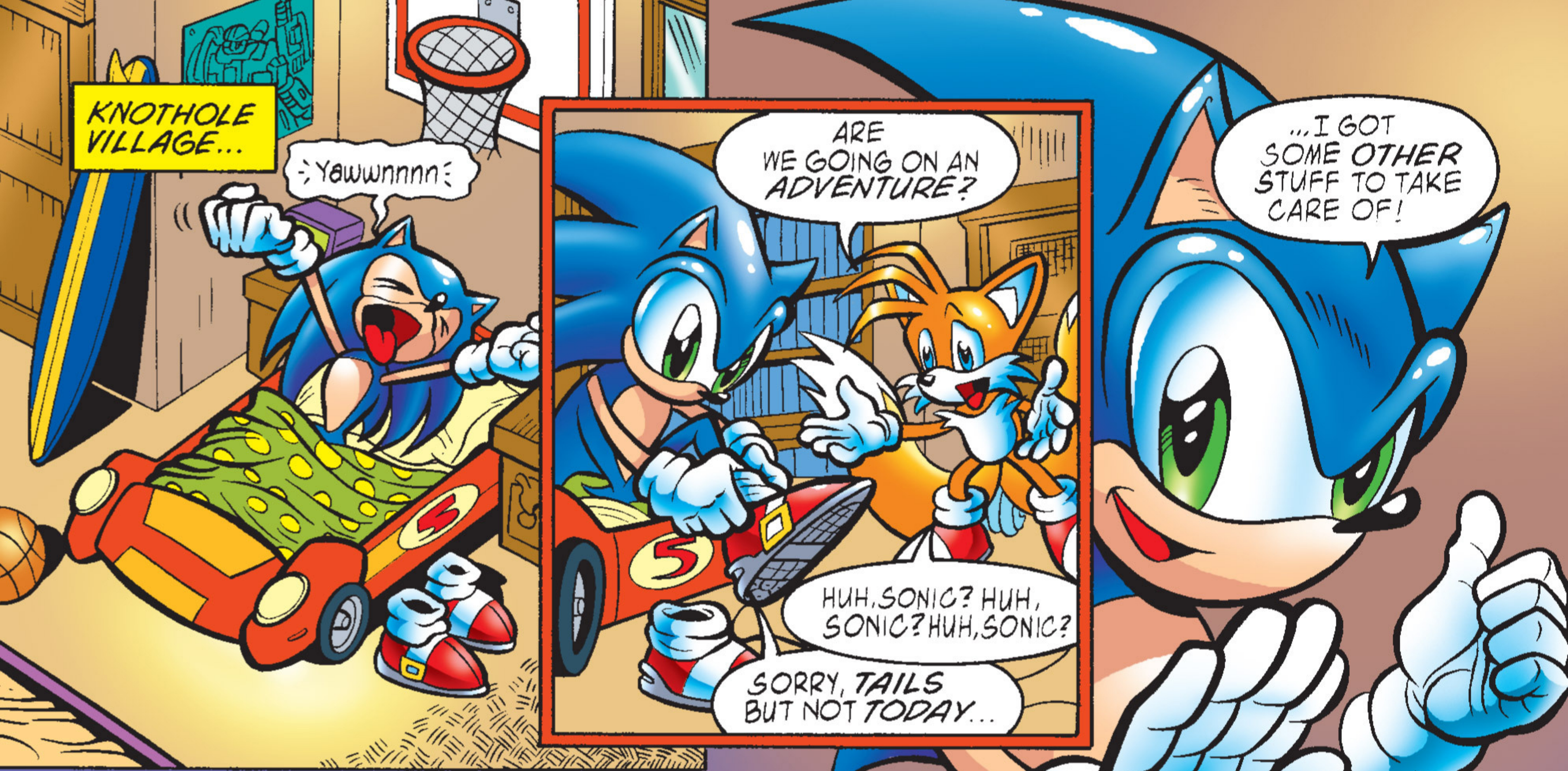


"-- THEY AWAKENED ME, IMBUING ME WITH ENOUGH ENERGY TO ATTAIN SUPER SHADOW FORM--"









KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...

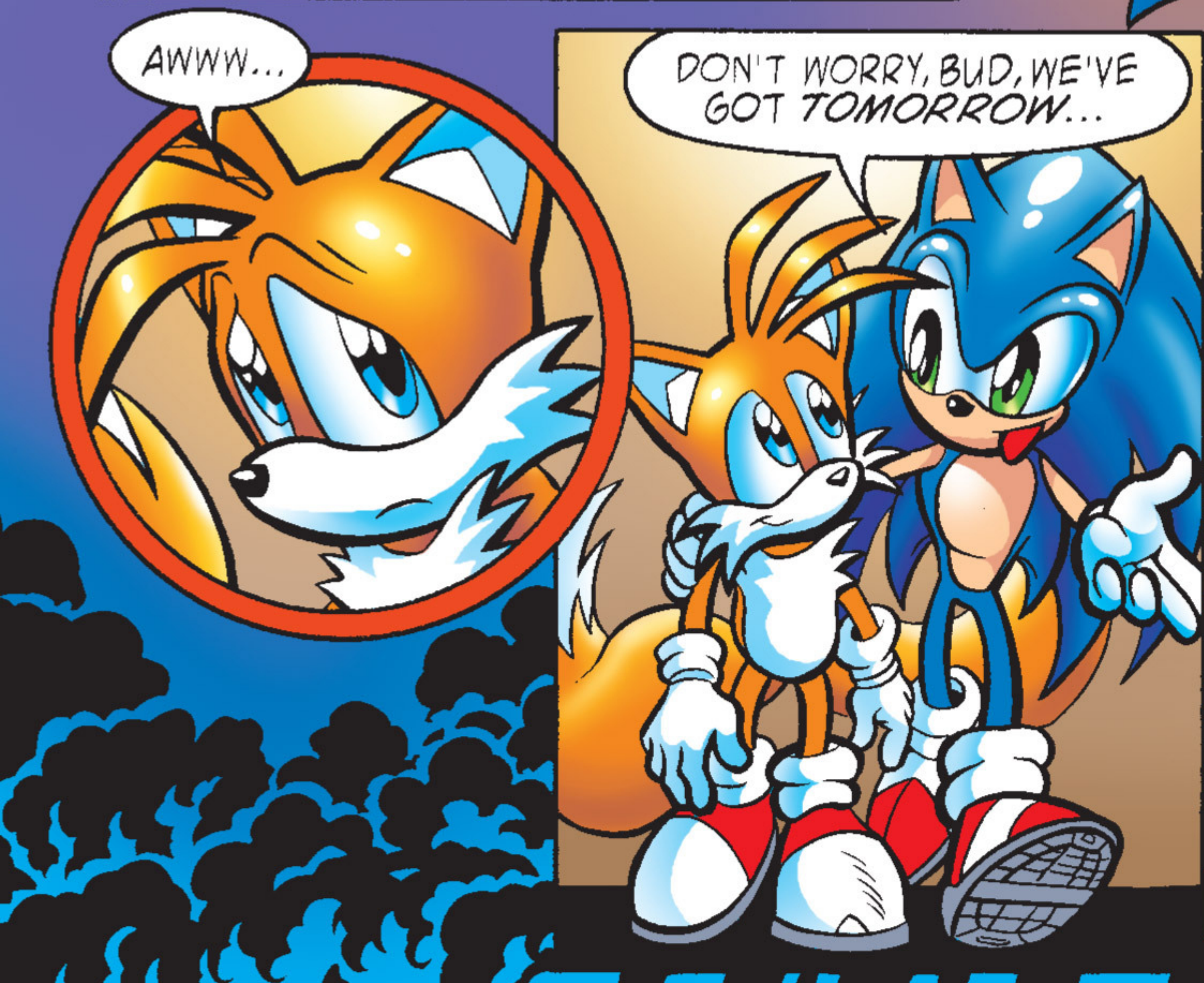
Yawnnnnnn!

ARE WE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE?

...I GOT SOME OTHER STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF!

HUH, SONIC? HUH, SONIC? HUH, SONIC?

SORRY, TAILS BUT NOT TODAY...



AWWW...

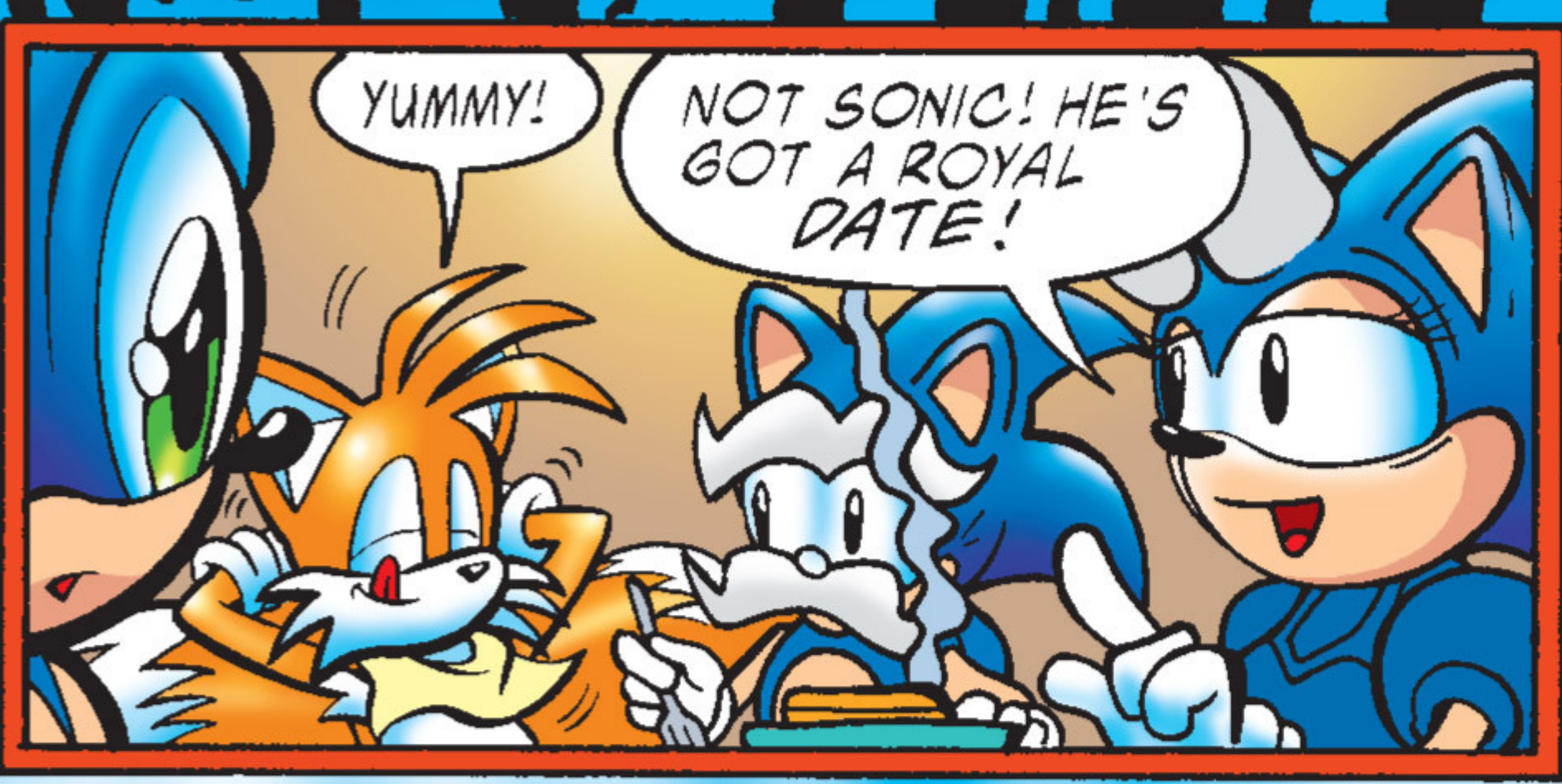
DON'T WORRY, BUD, WE'VE GOT TOMORROW...



...AND THE REST OF OUR LIVES FOR ADVENTURES!

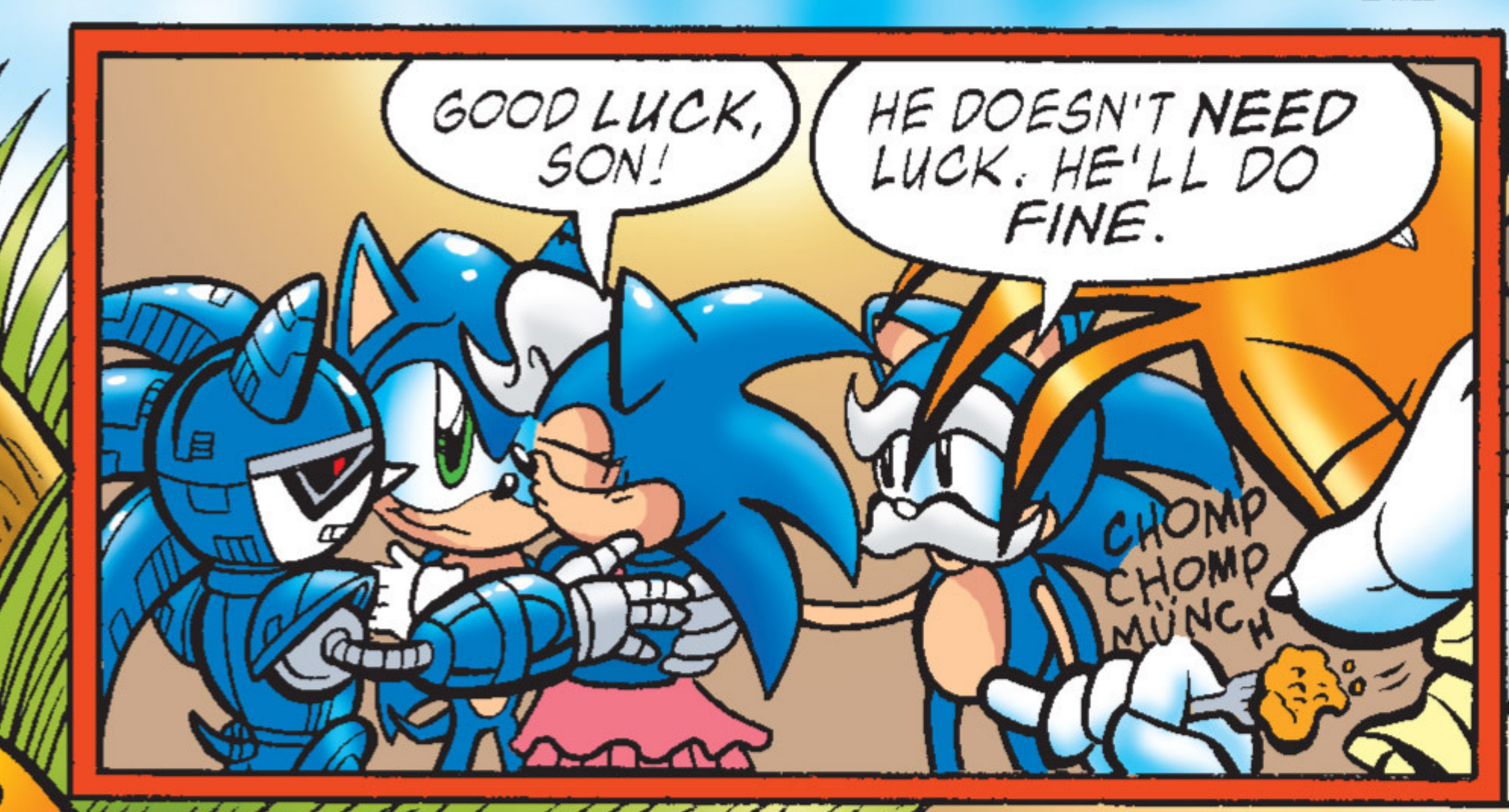
G'MORNING, MOM AND DAD! WHAT'S SHAKIN', UNCLE CHUCK?

JOIN US FOR A BITE O' BREAKFAST BOYS?



YUMMY!

NOT SONIC! HE'S GOT A ROYAL DATE!



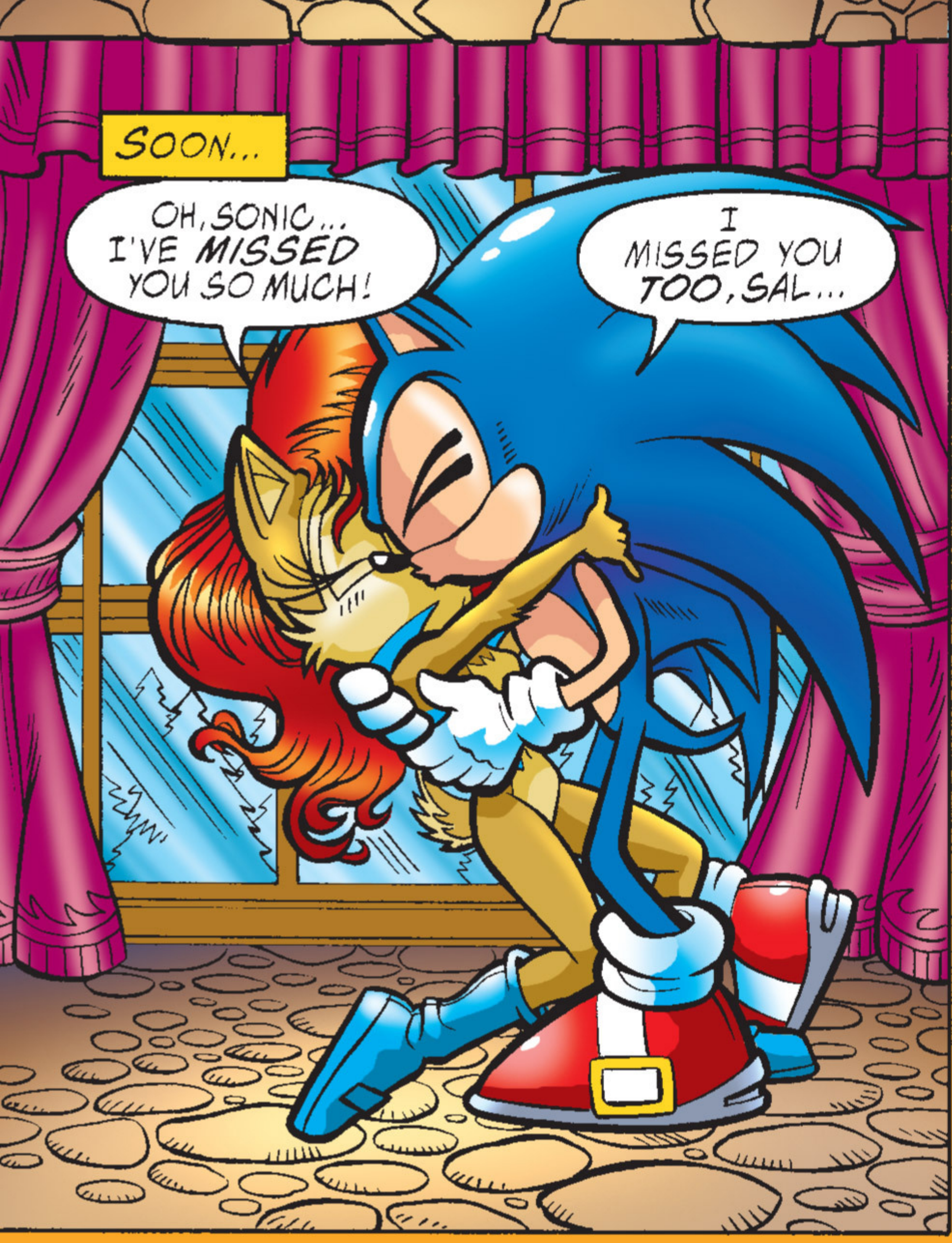
GOOD LUCK, SON!

HE DOESN'T NEED LUCK. HE'LL DO FINE.

CHOMP CHOMP MUNCH



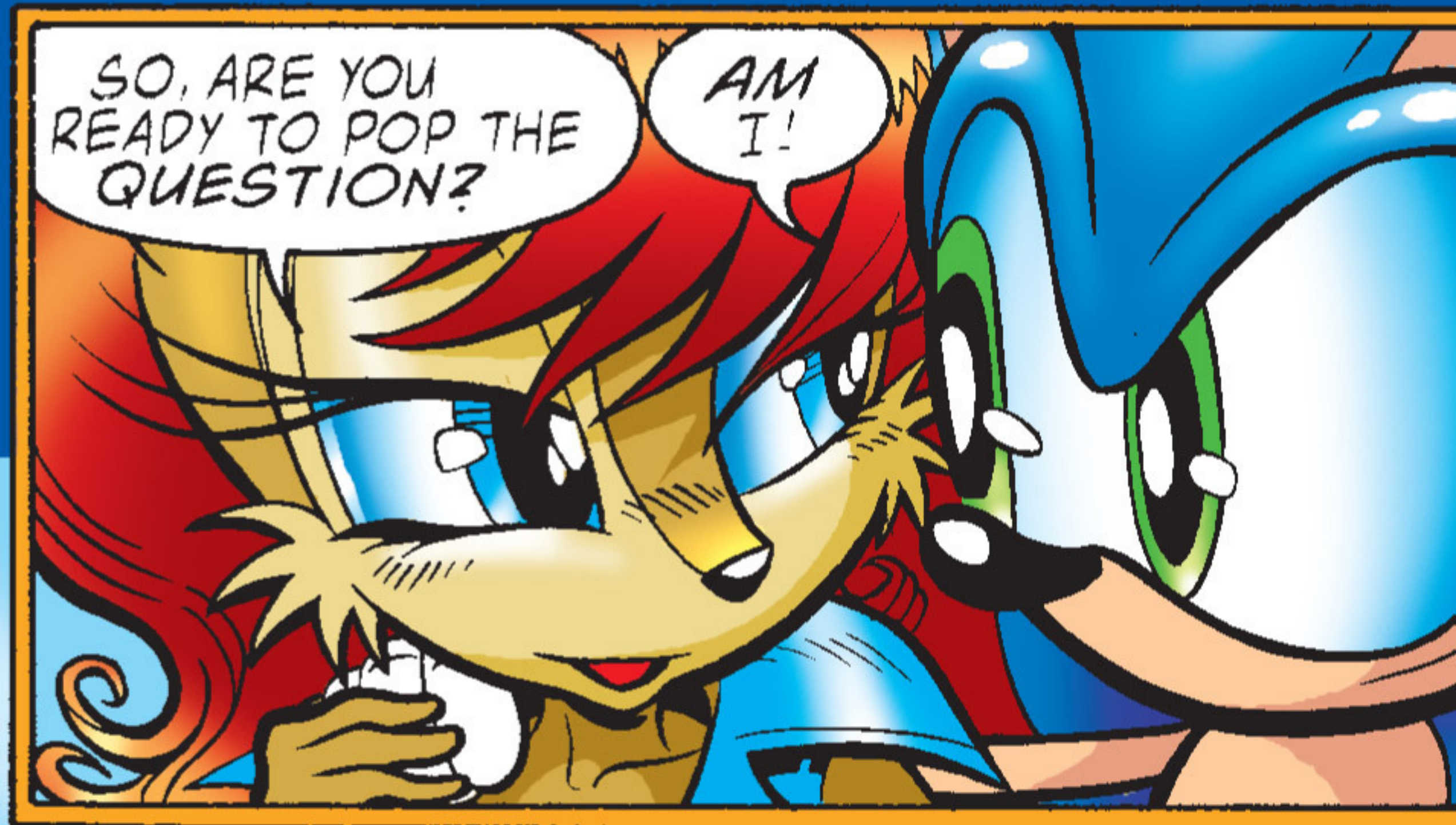
THANKS! SEE YA LATER!



SOON...

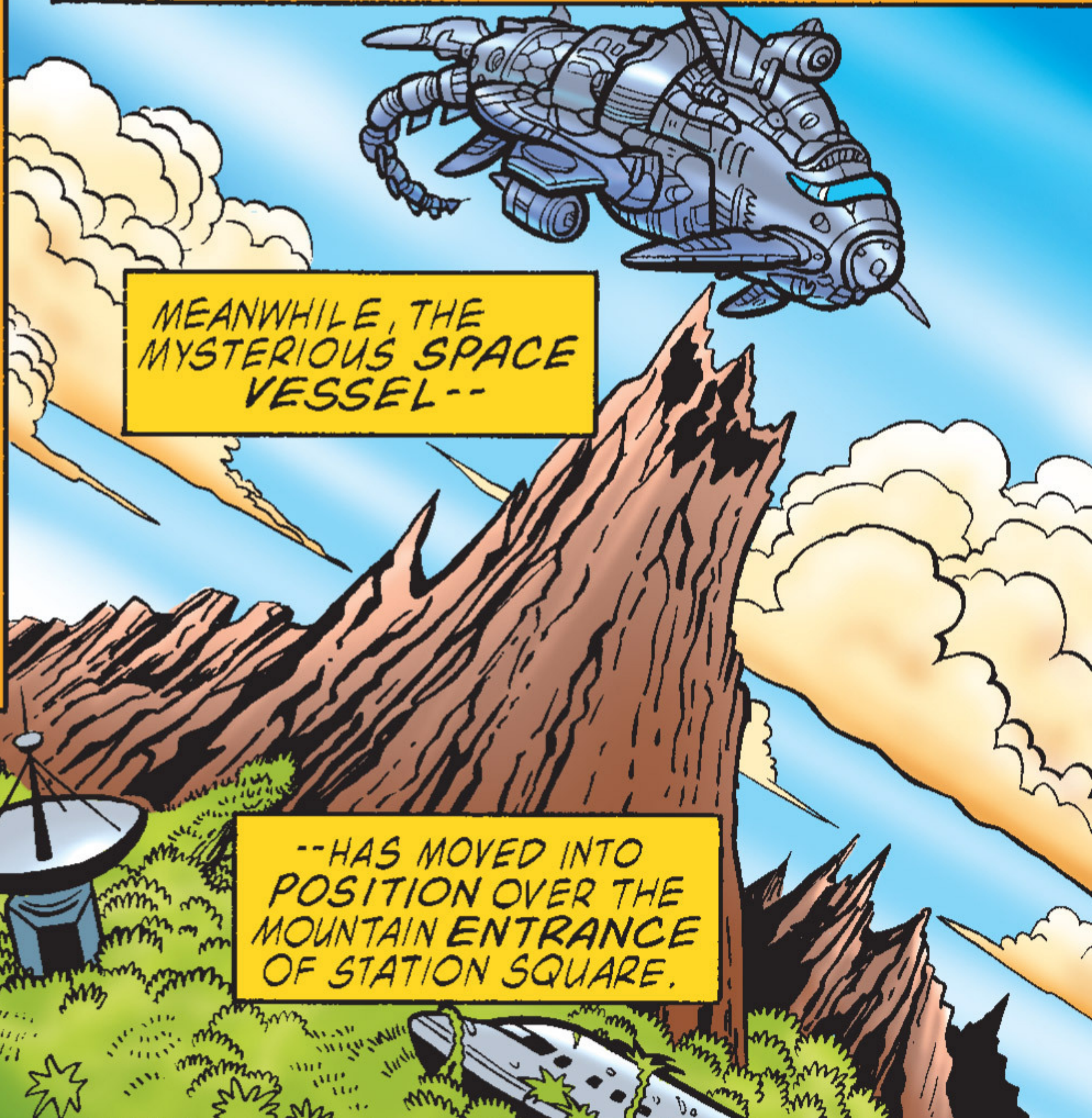
OH, SONIC... I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!

I MISSED YOU TOO, SAL...

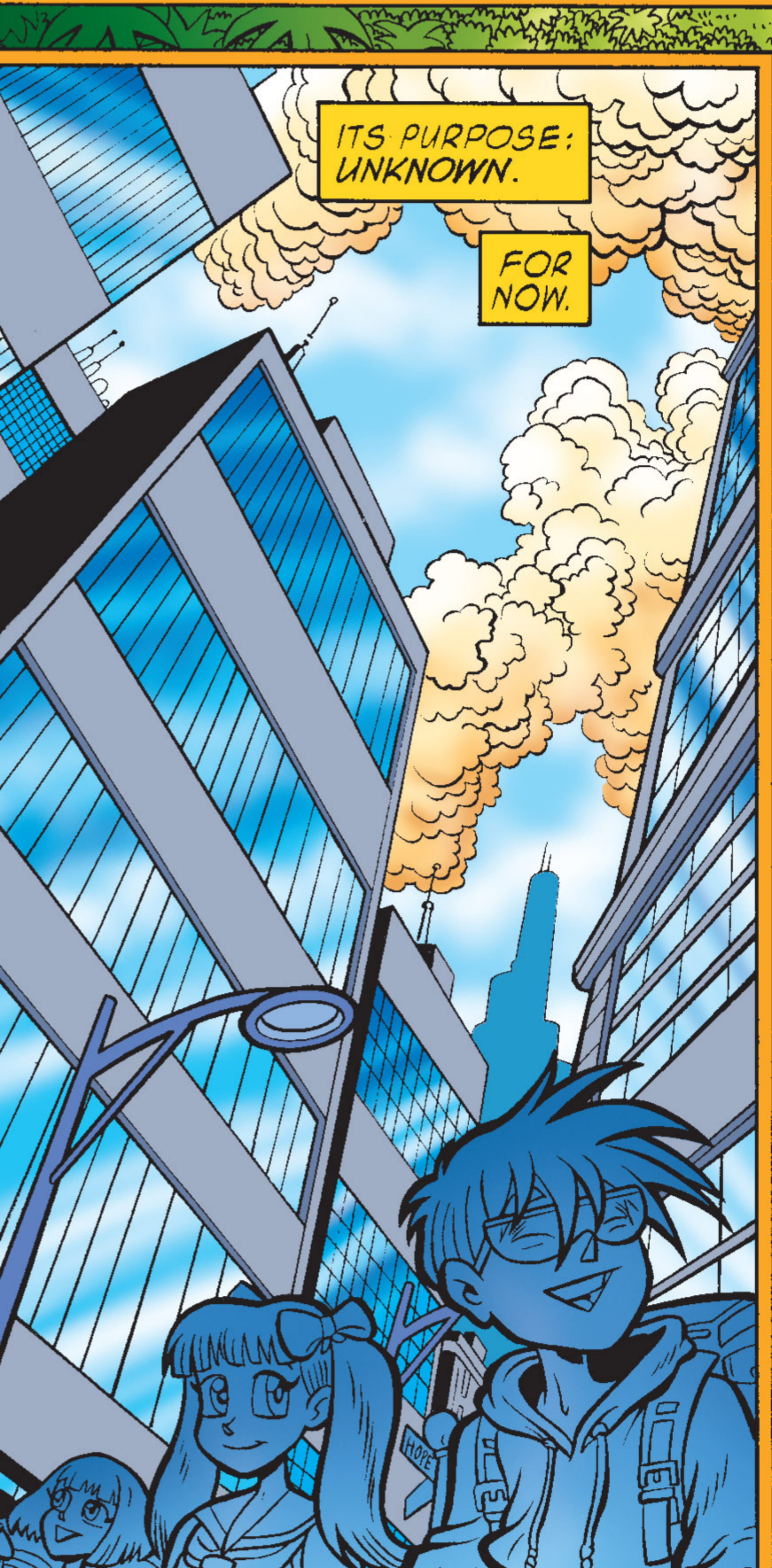


SO, ARE YOU READY TO POP THE QUESTION?

AM I!

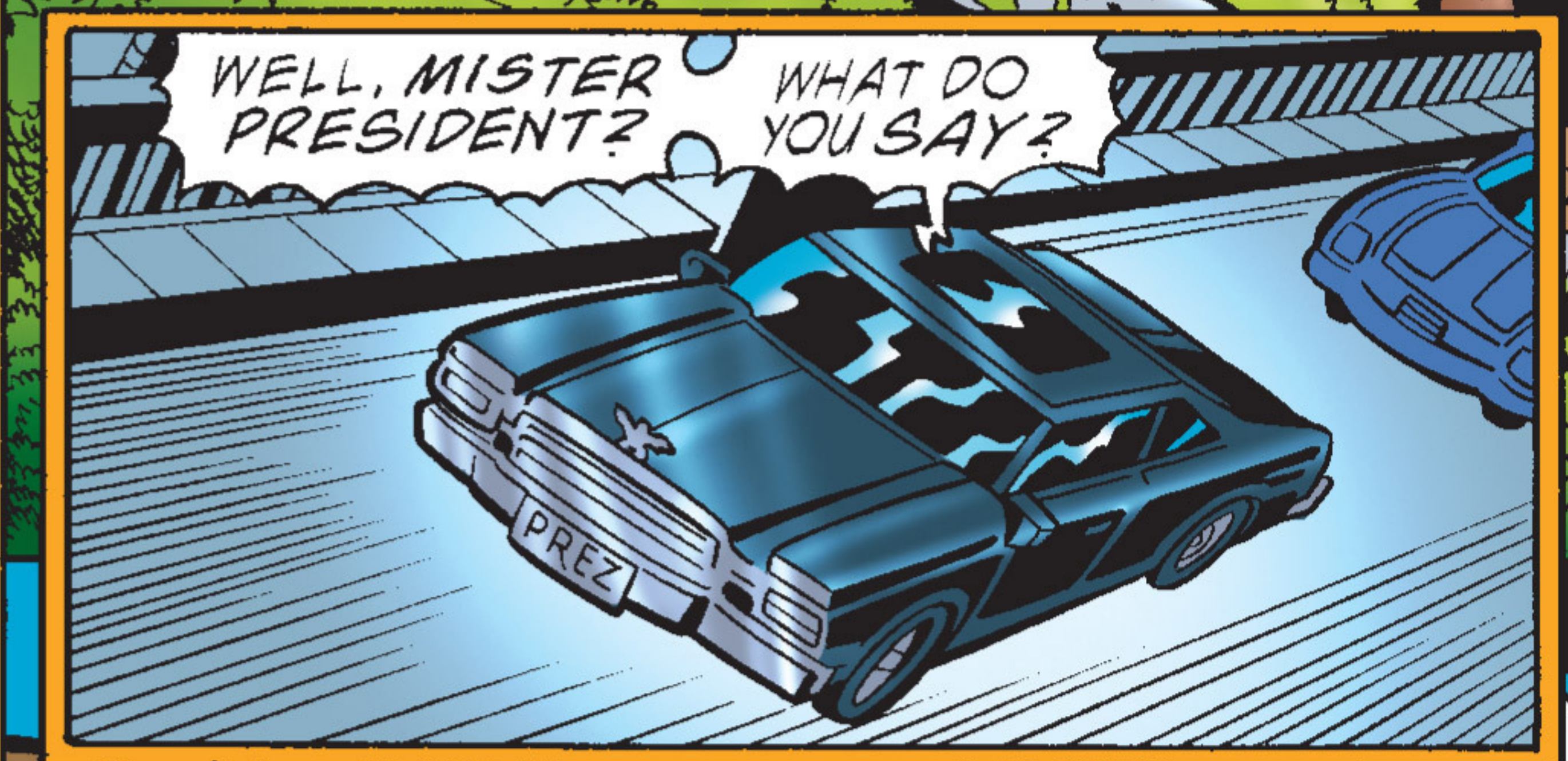


MEANWHILE, THE MYSTERIOUS SPACE VESSEL--



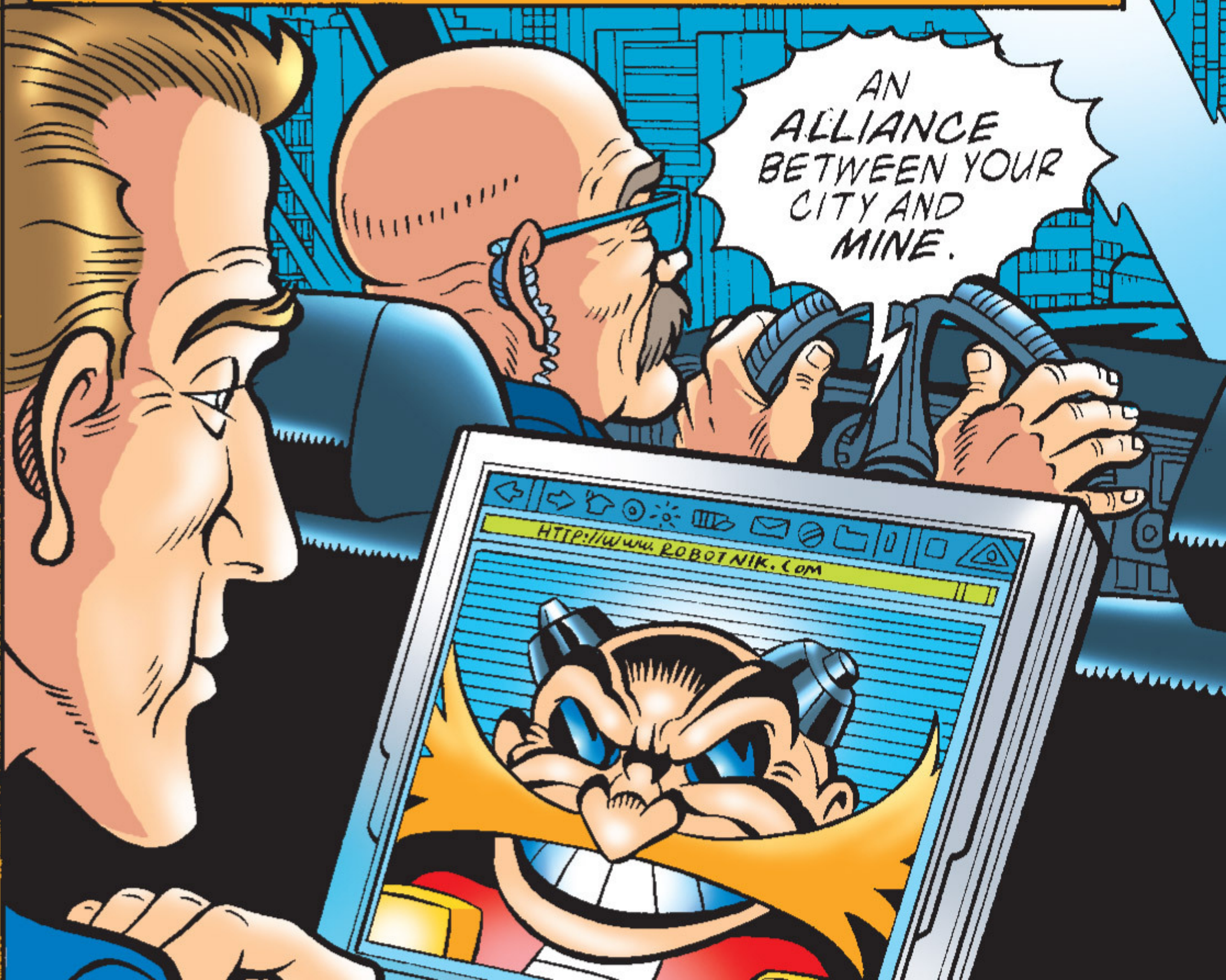
ITS PURPOSE; UNKNOWN.

FOR NOW.

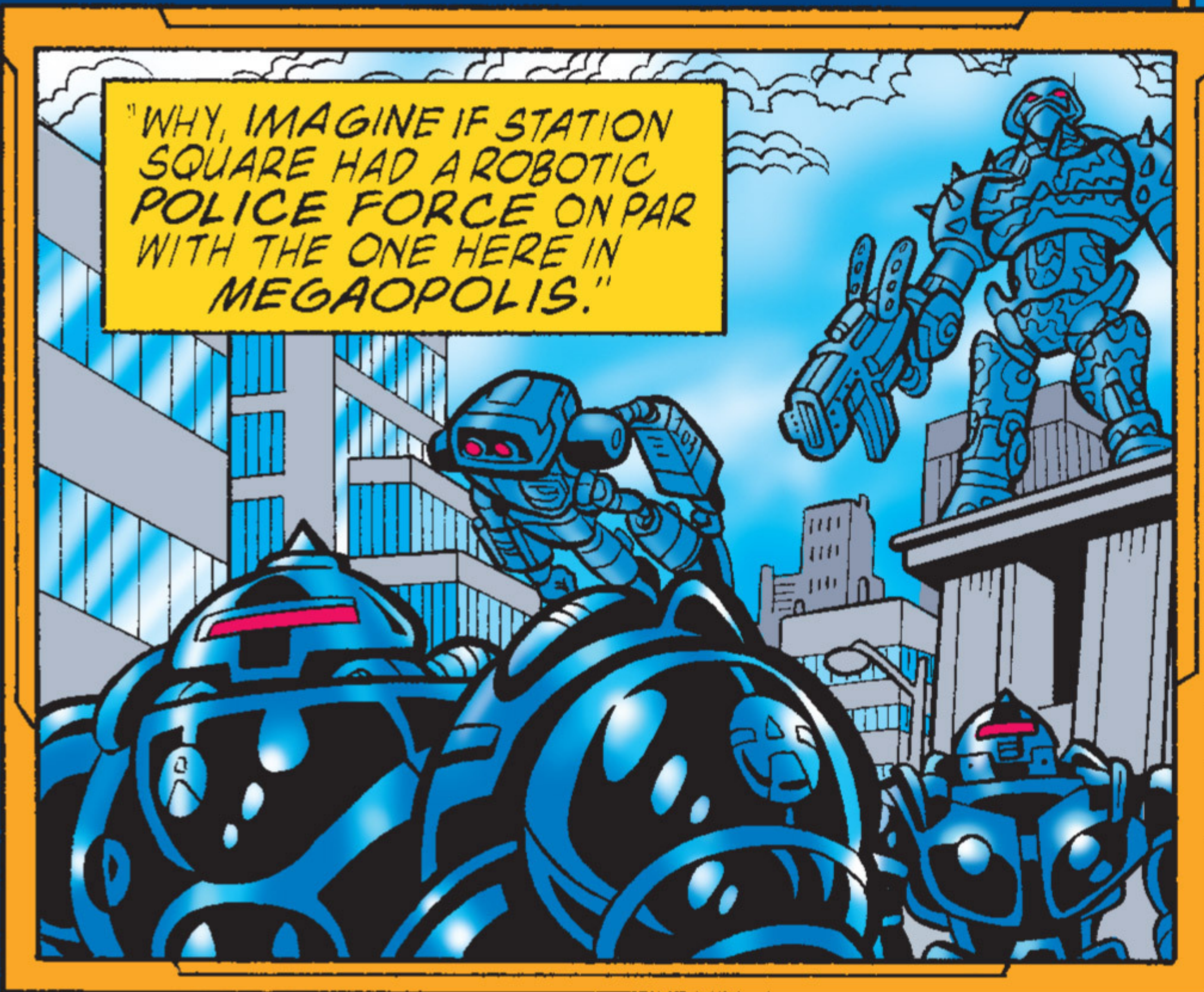


WELL, MISTER PRESIDENT?

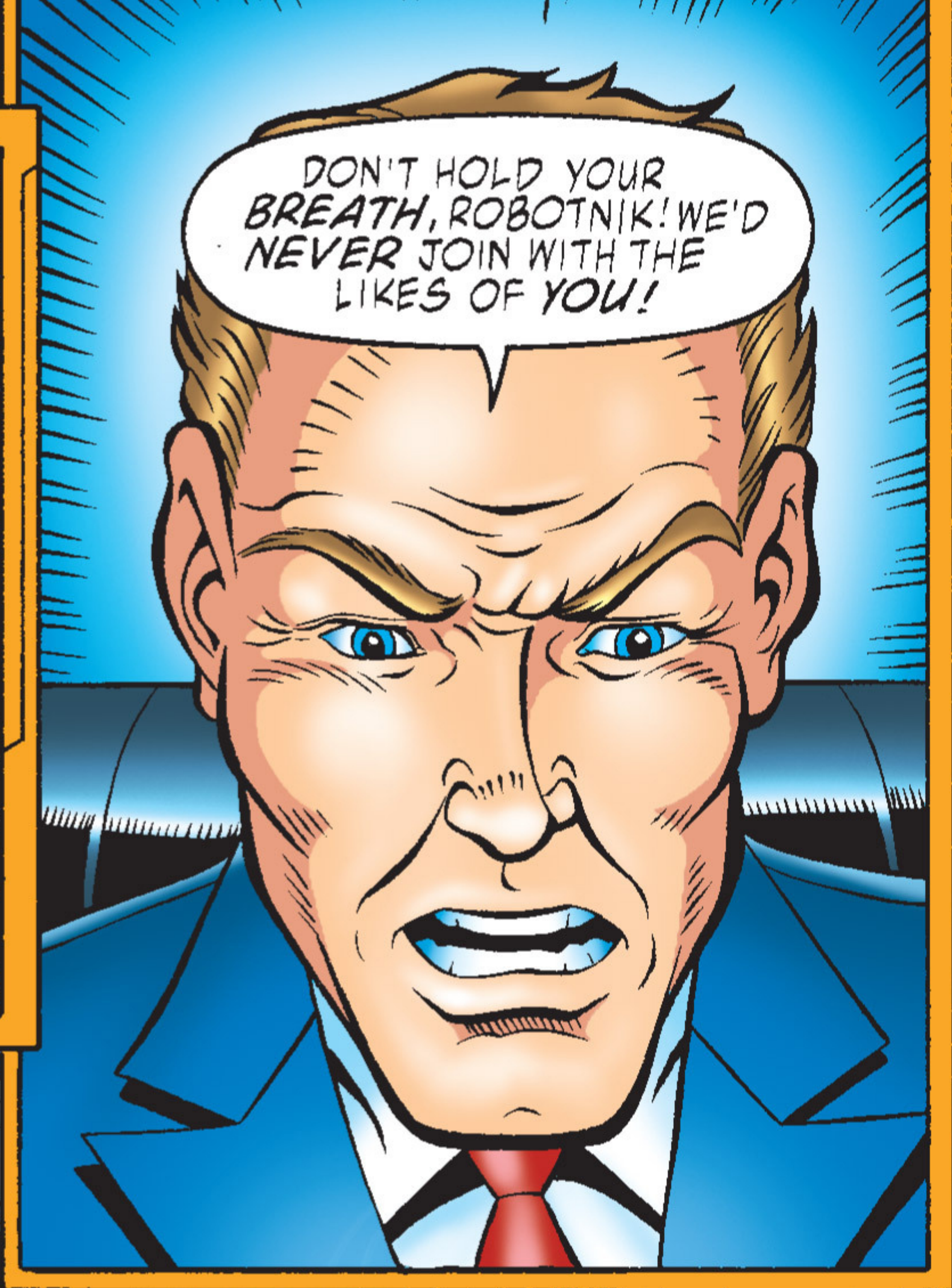
WHAT DO YOU SAY?



AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN YOUR CITY AND MINE.



"WHY, IMAGINE IF STATION SQUARE HAD A ROBOTIC POLICE FORCE ON PAR WITH THE ONE HERE IN MEGAOPOLIS."



DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH, ROBOTNIK! WE'D NEVER JOIN WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!



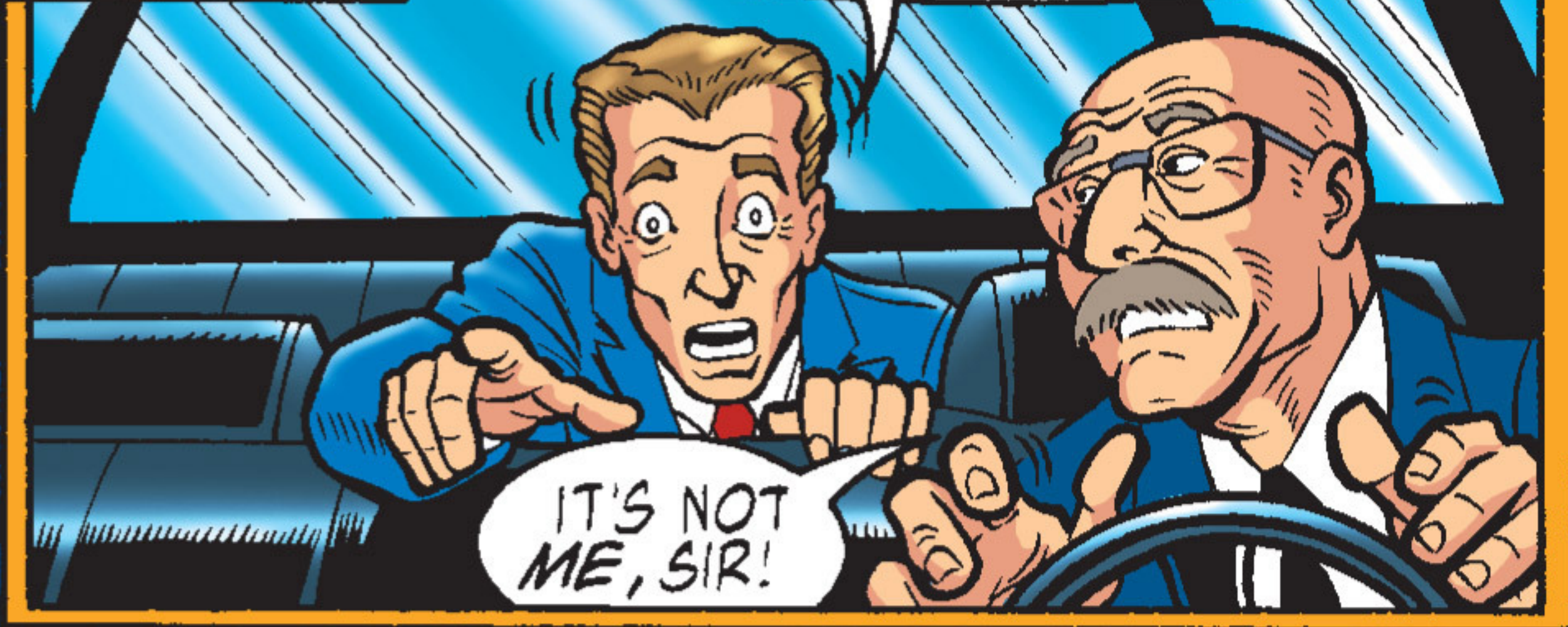
WRONG ANSWER!

HONK HOOOONK

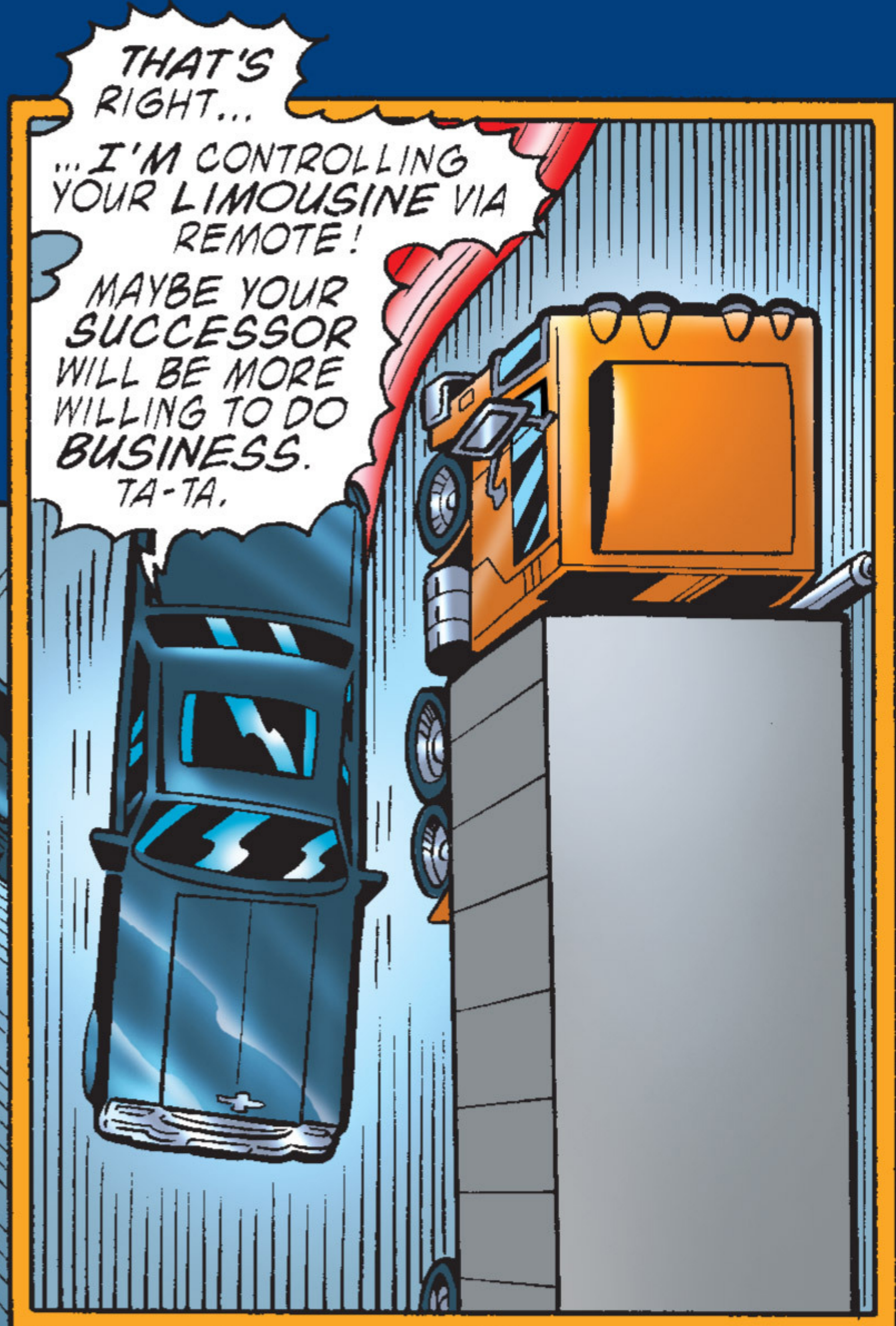
SQUEEEEE



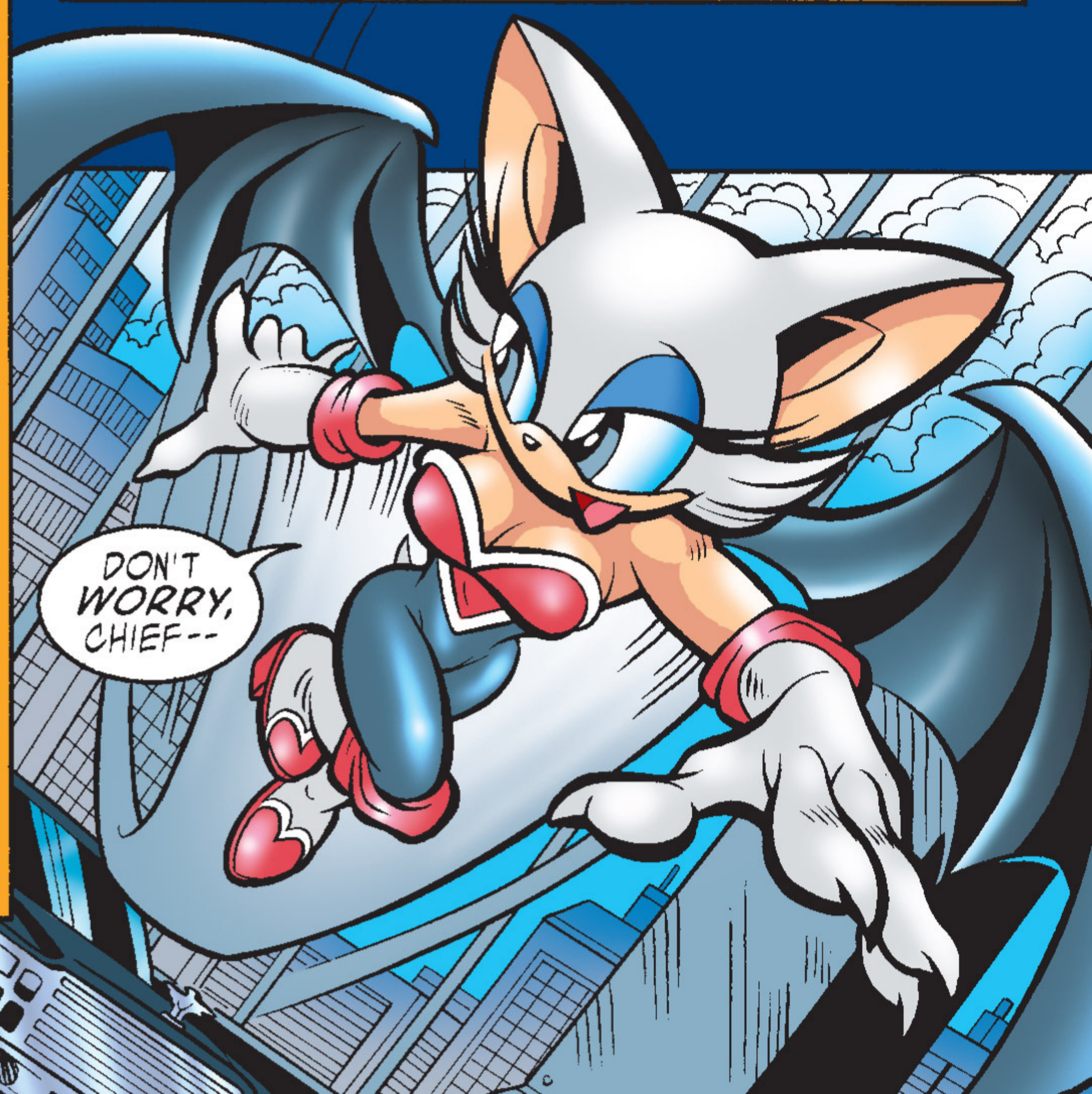
CORBIN, YOU'RE IN THE ONCOMING TRAFFIC LANE! WE'RE HEADED FOR THAT SEMI-TRUCK! MOVE!



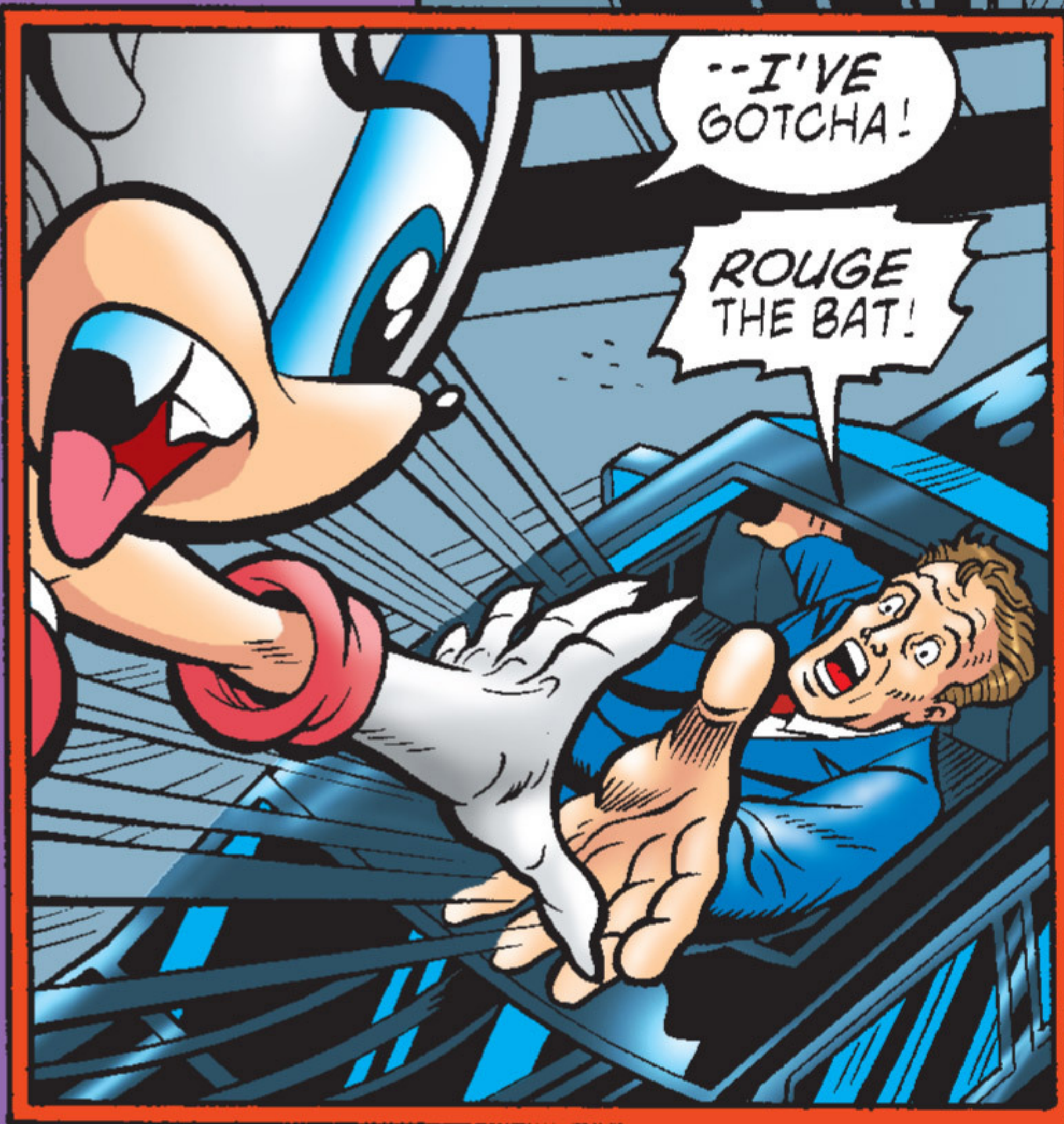
IT'S NOT ME, SIR!



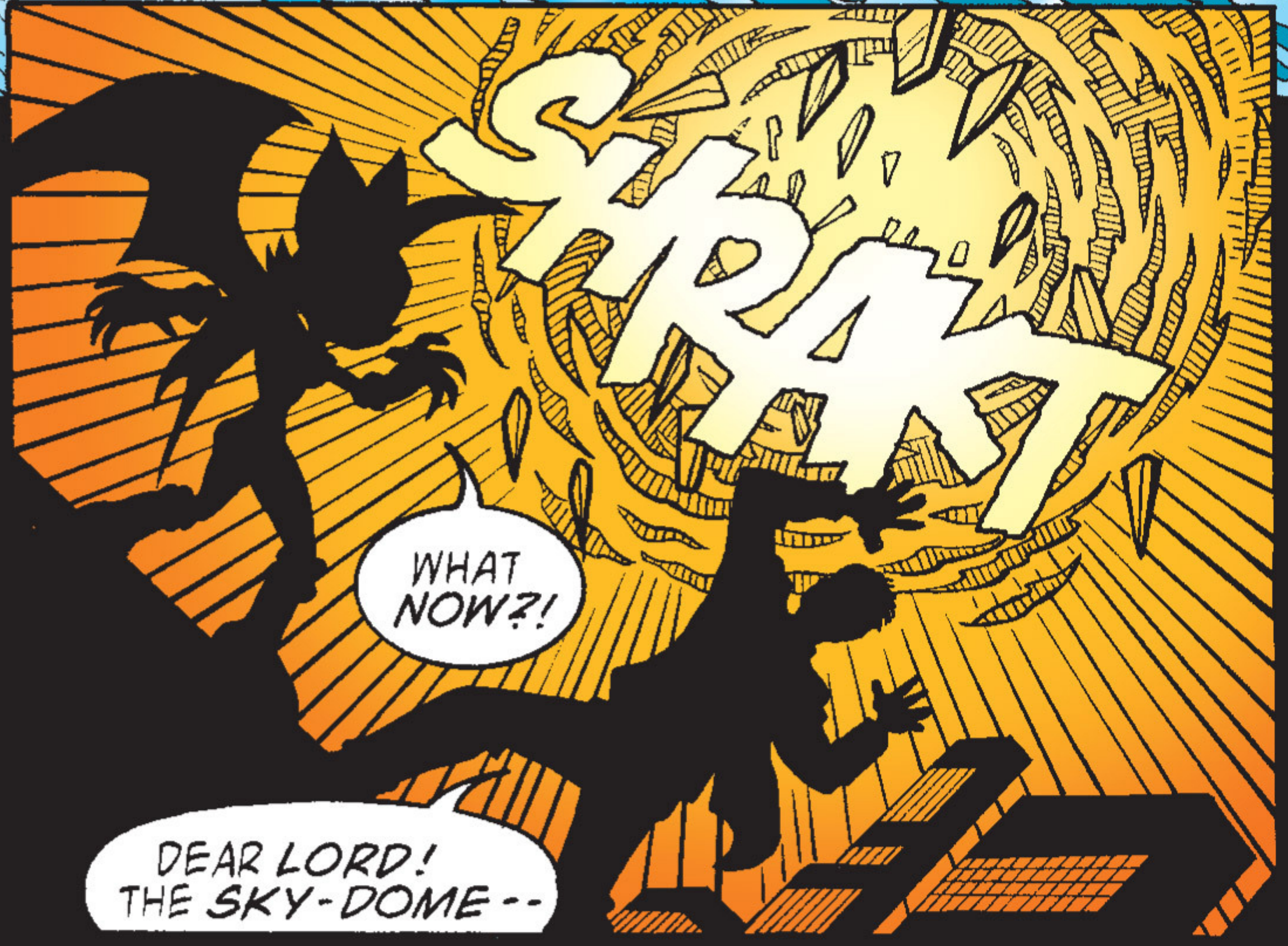
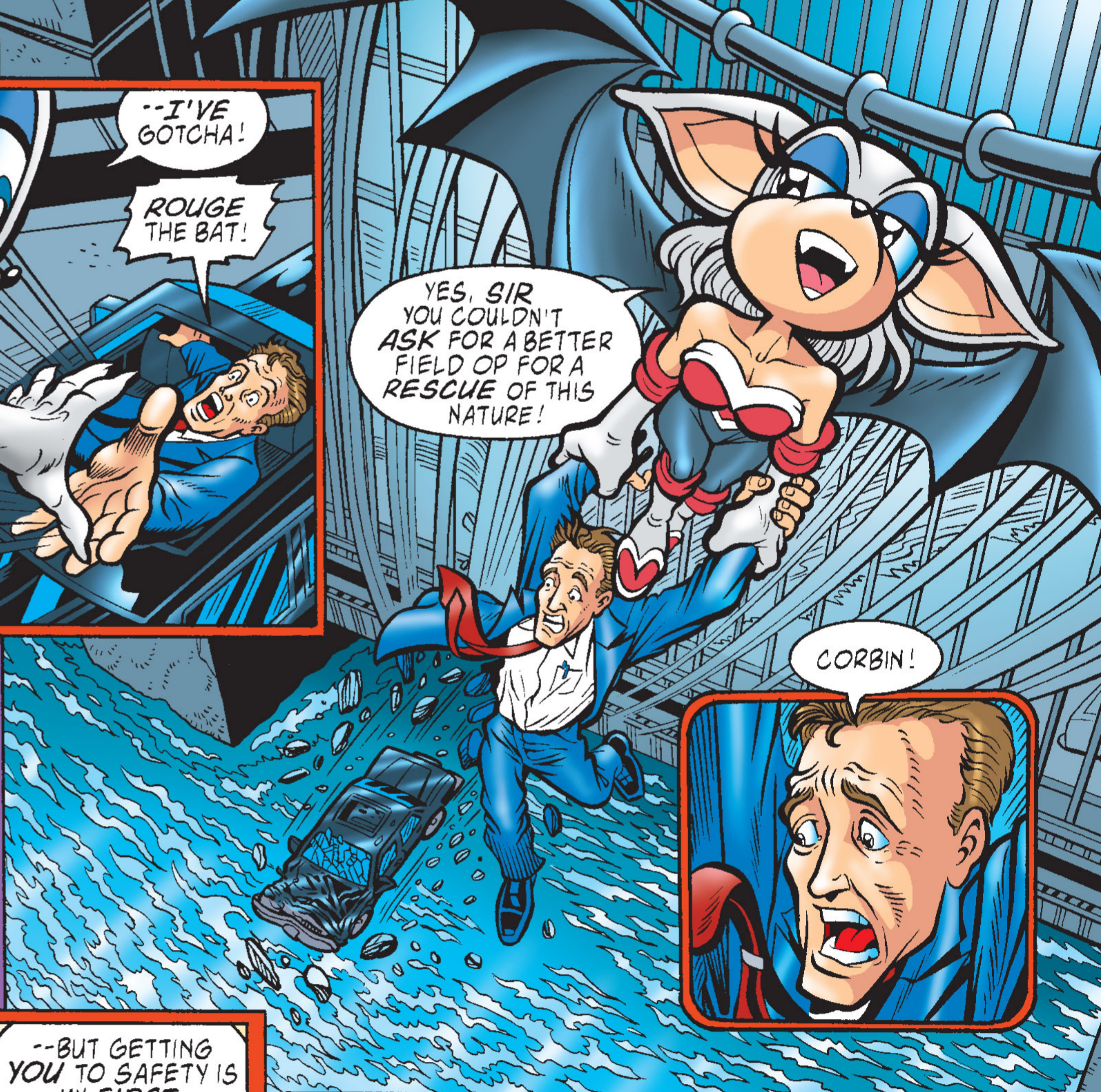
THAT'S RIGHT...
... I'M CONTROLLING YOUR LIMOUSINE VIA REMOTE!
MAYBE YOUR SUCCESSOR WILL BE MORE WILLING TO DO BUSINESS.
TA-TA.

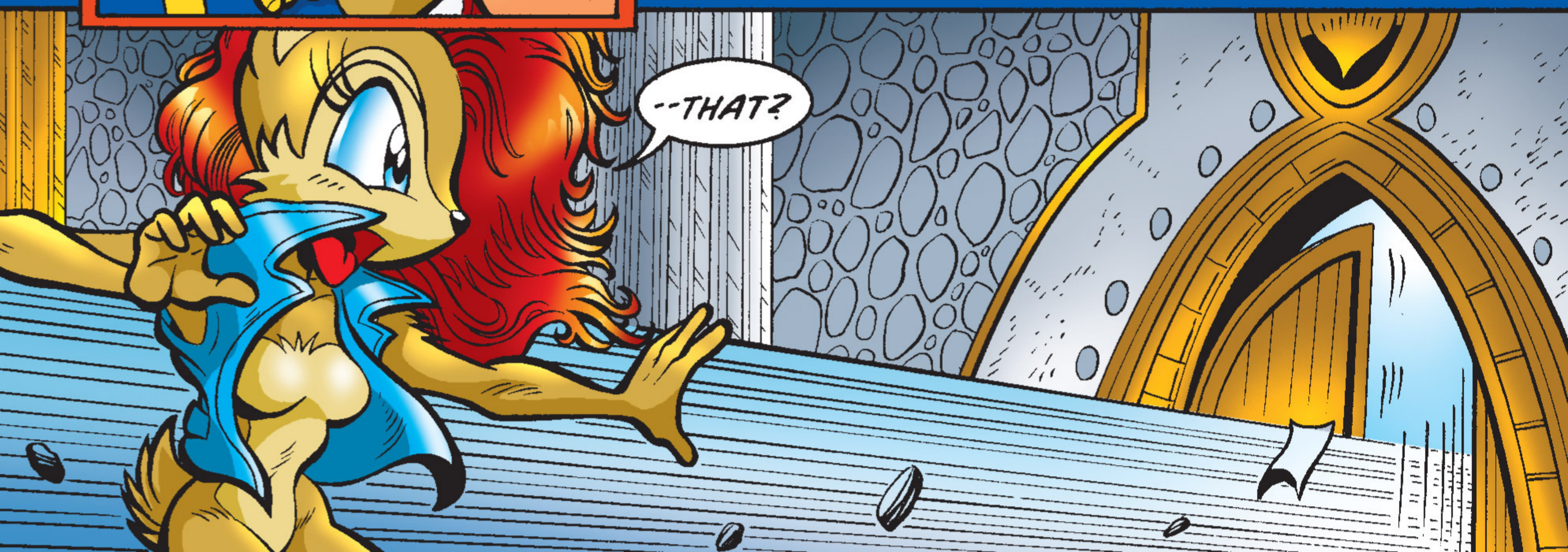
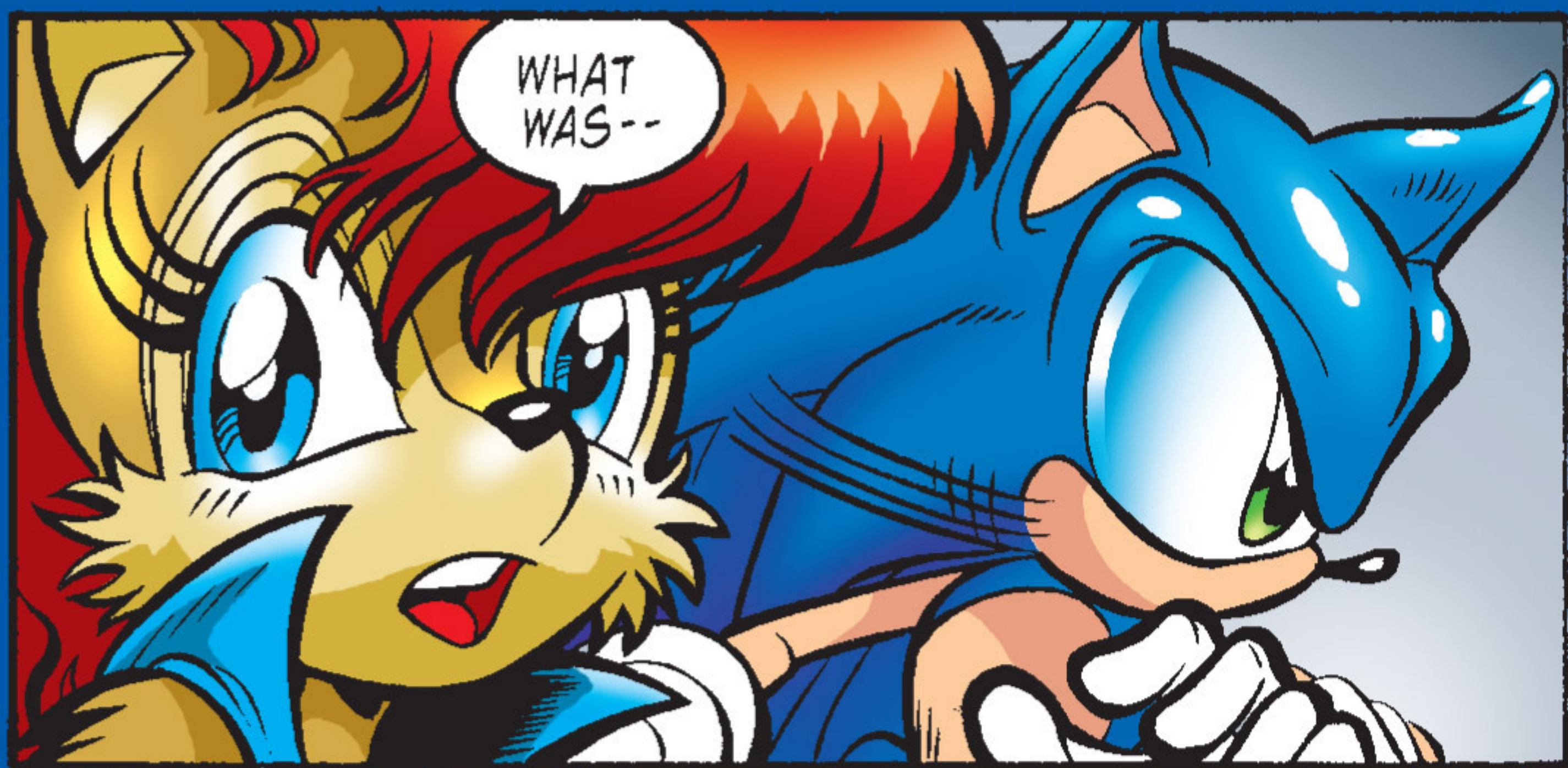
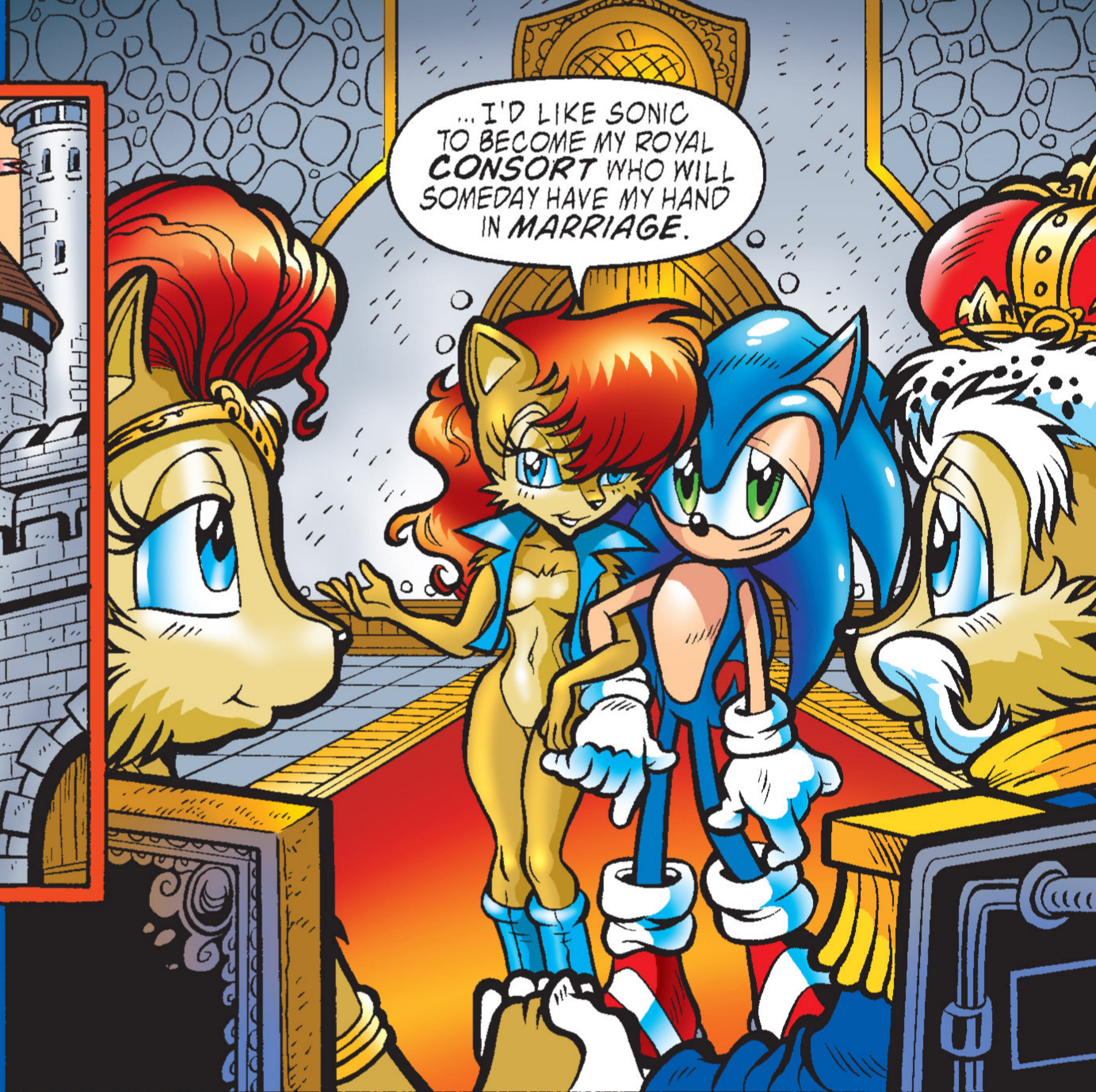
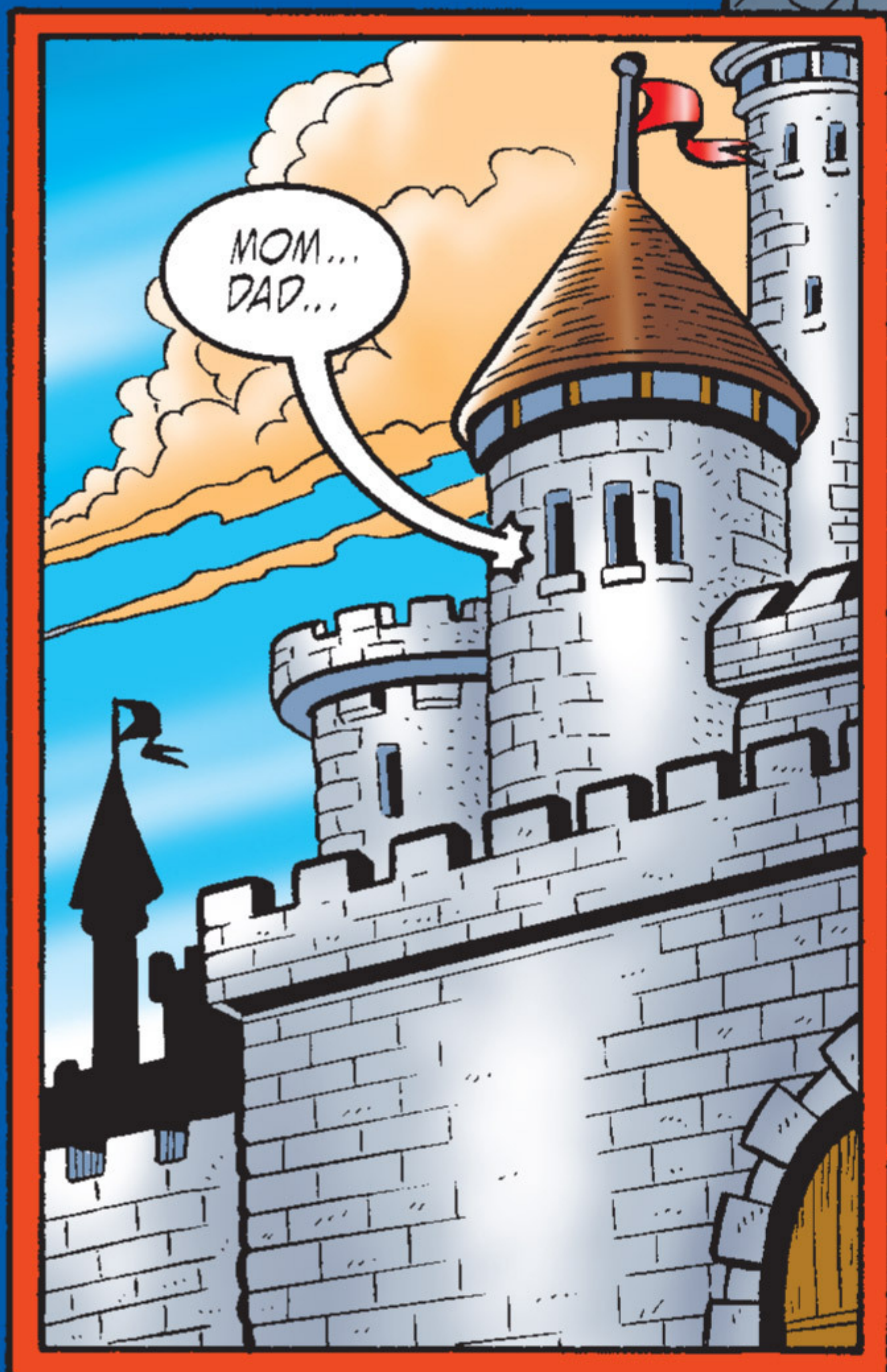


DON'T WORRY, CHIEF--



YES, SIR YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER FIELD OP FOR A RESCUE OF THIS NATURE!



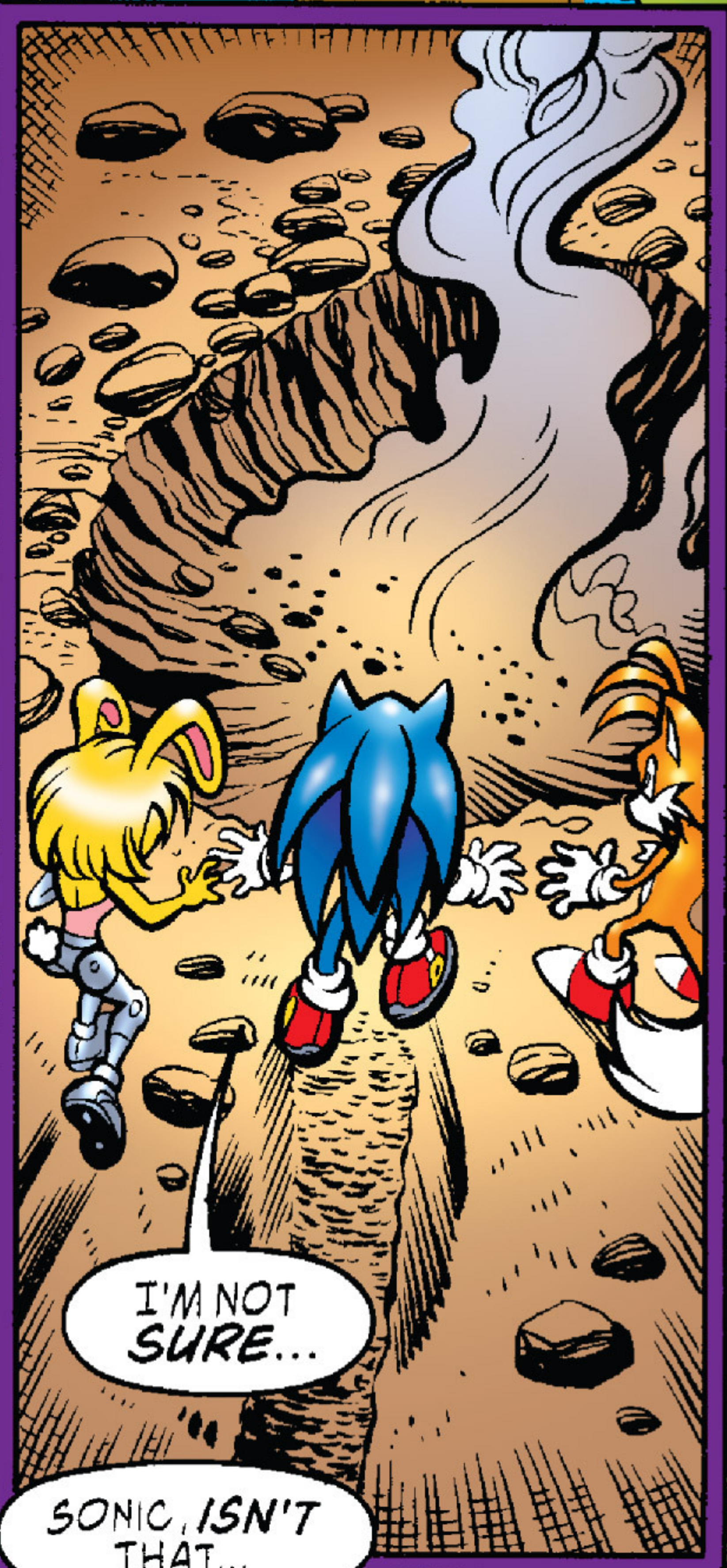




GOOD QUESTION.

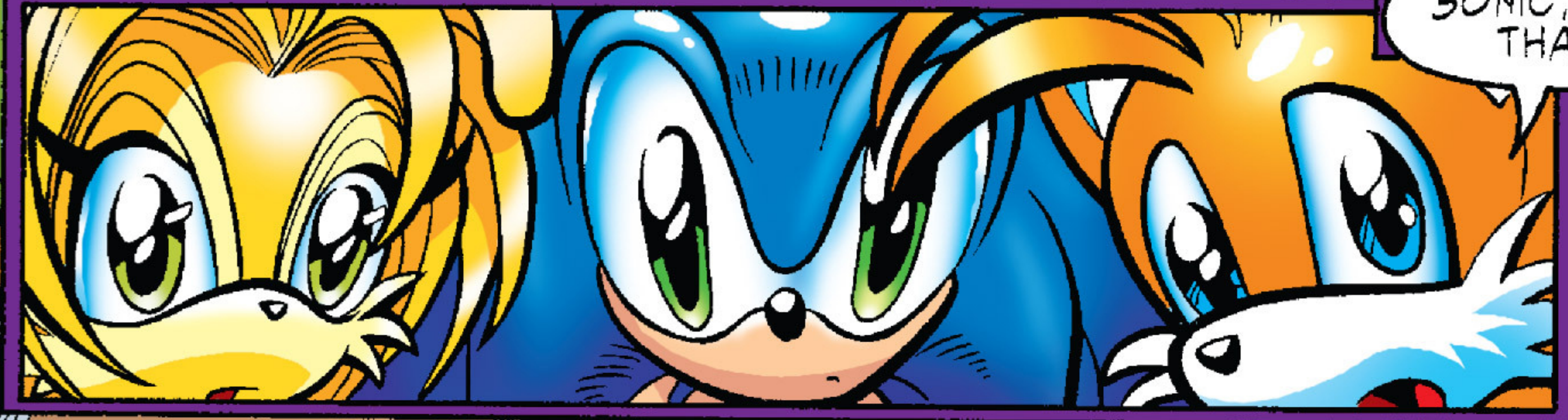
WE HEARD A RUCKUS SUGAH-HOG

WHAT'S GOING ON?

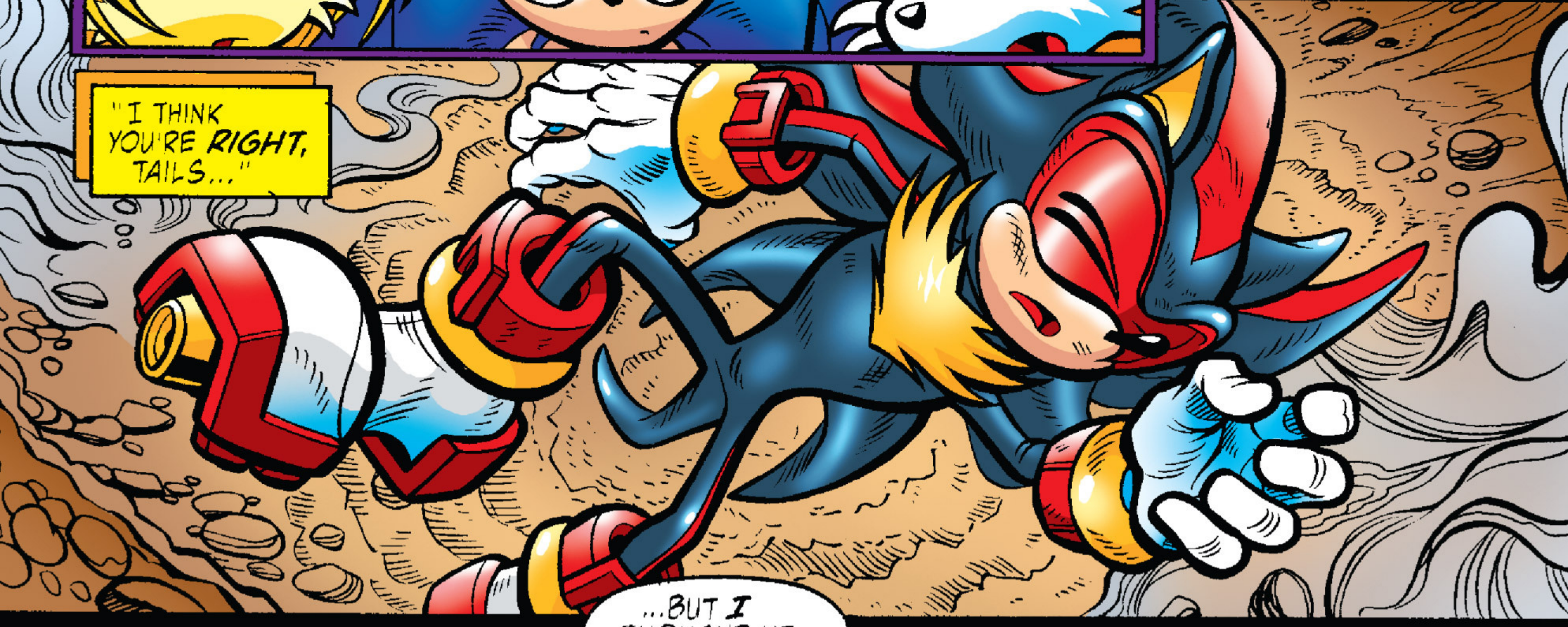


I'M NOT SURE...

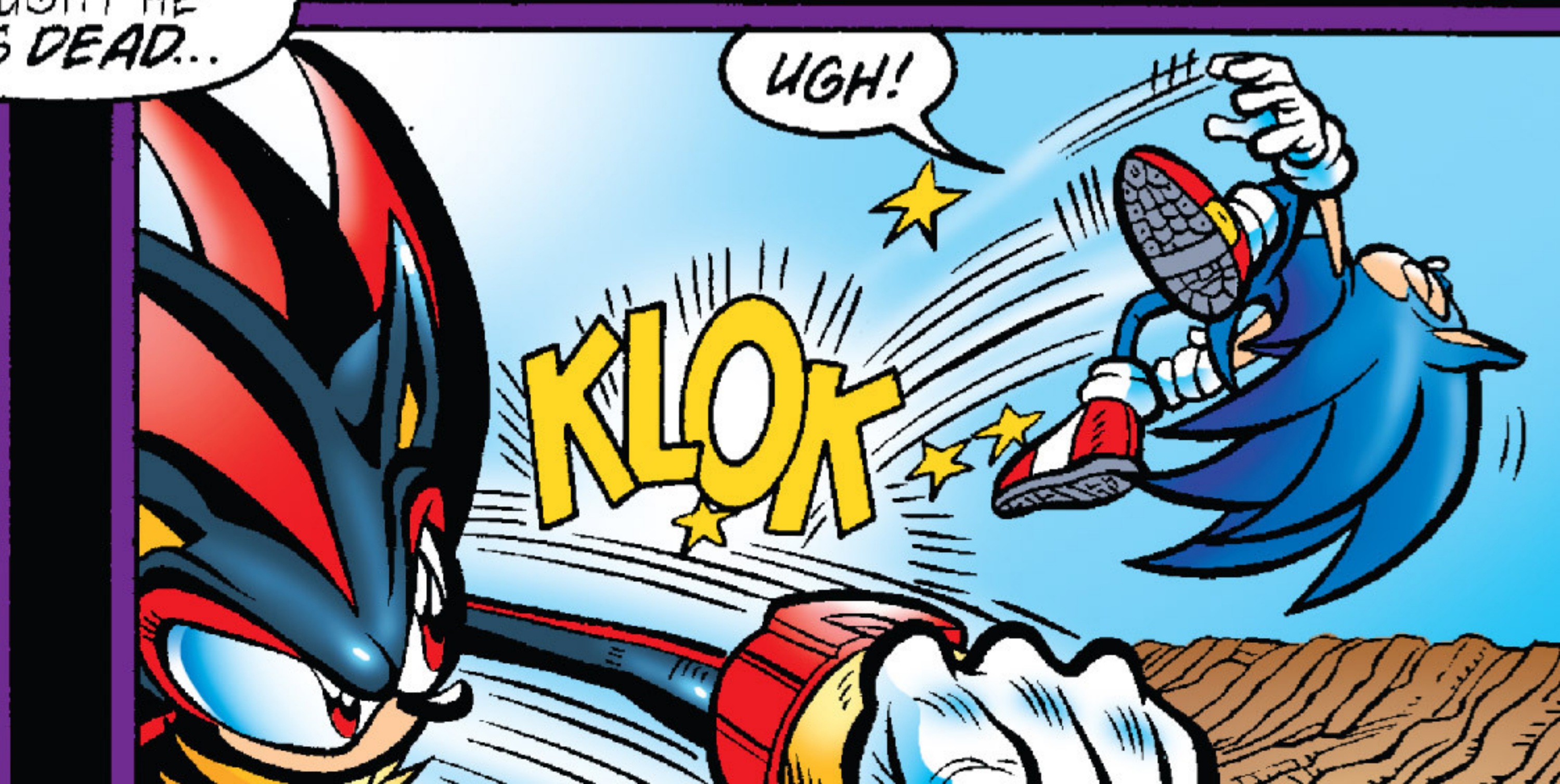
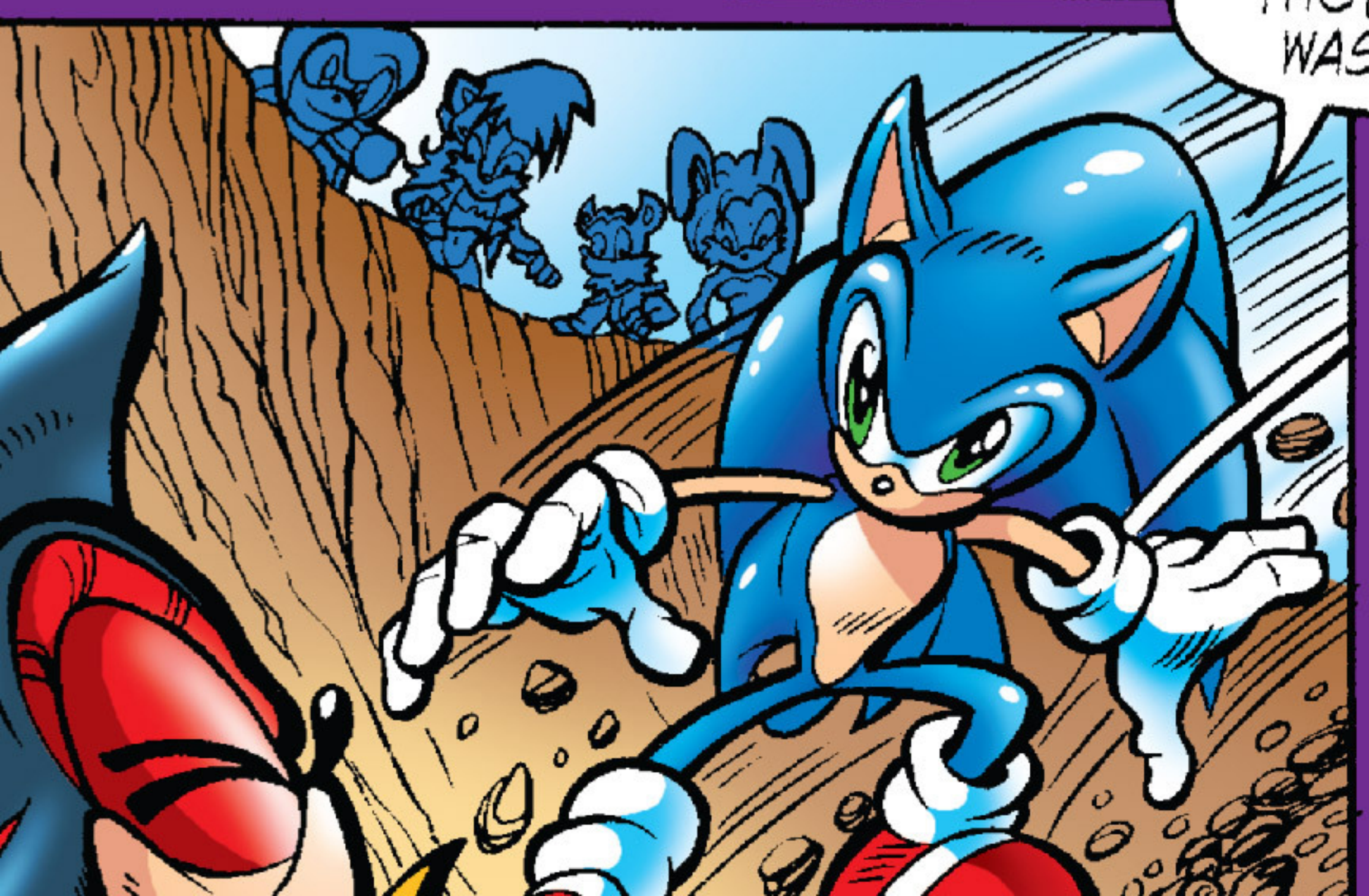
SONIC, ISN'T THAT...



"I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, TAILS..."

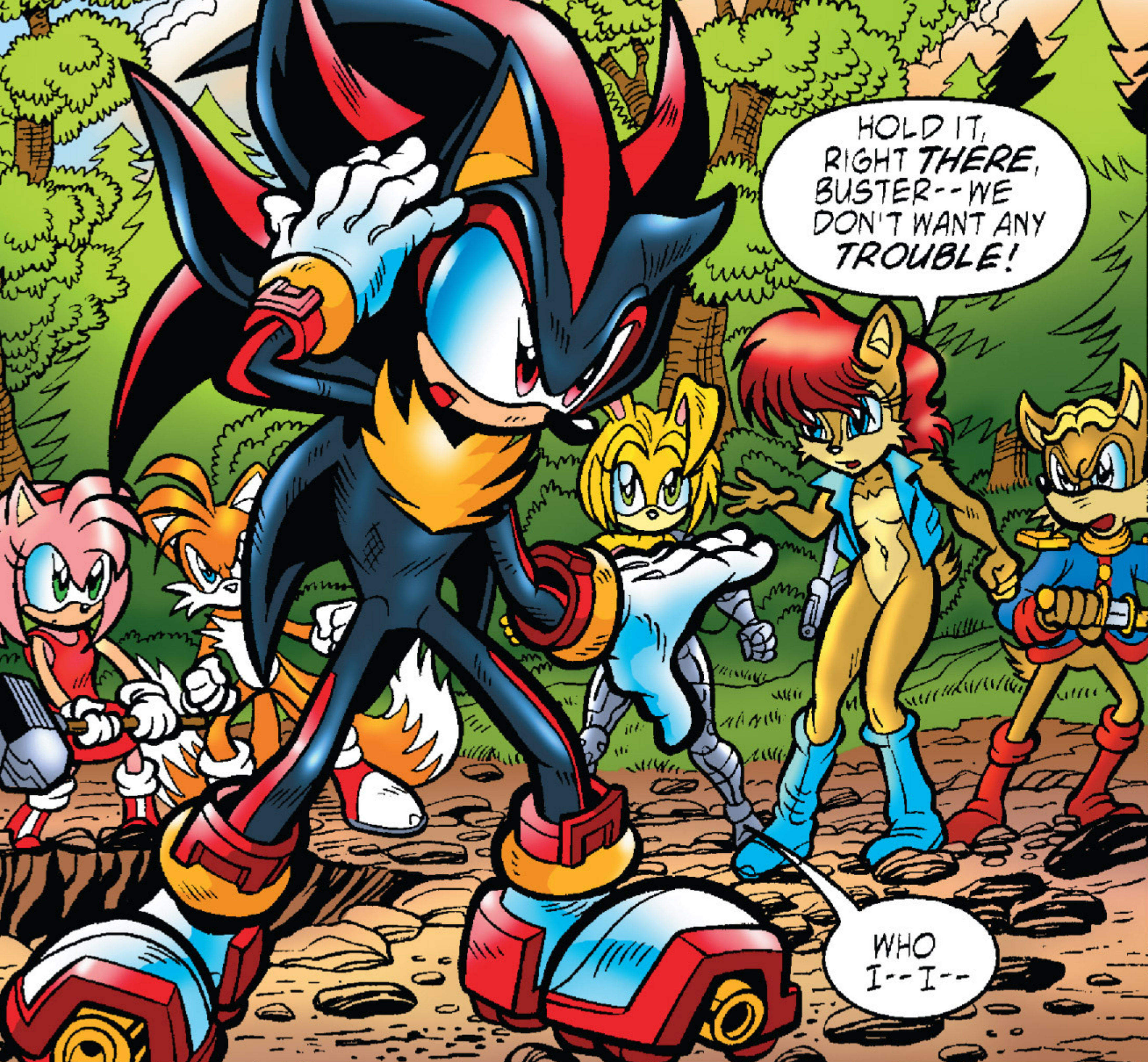


...BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD...



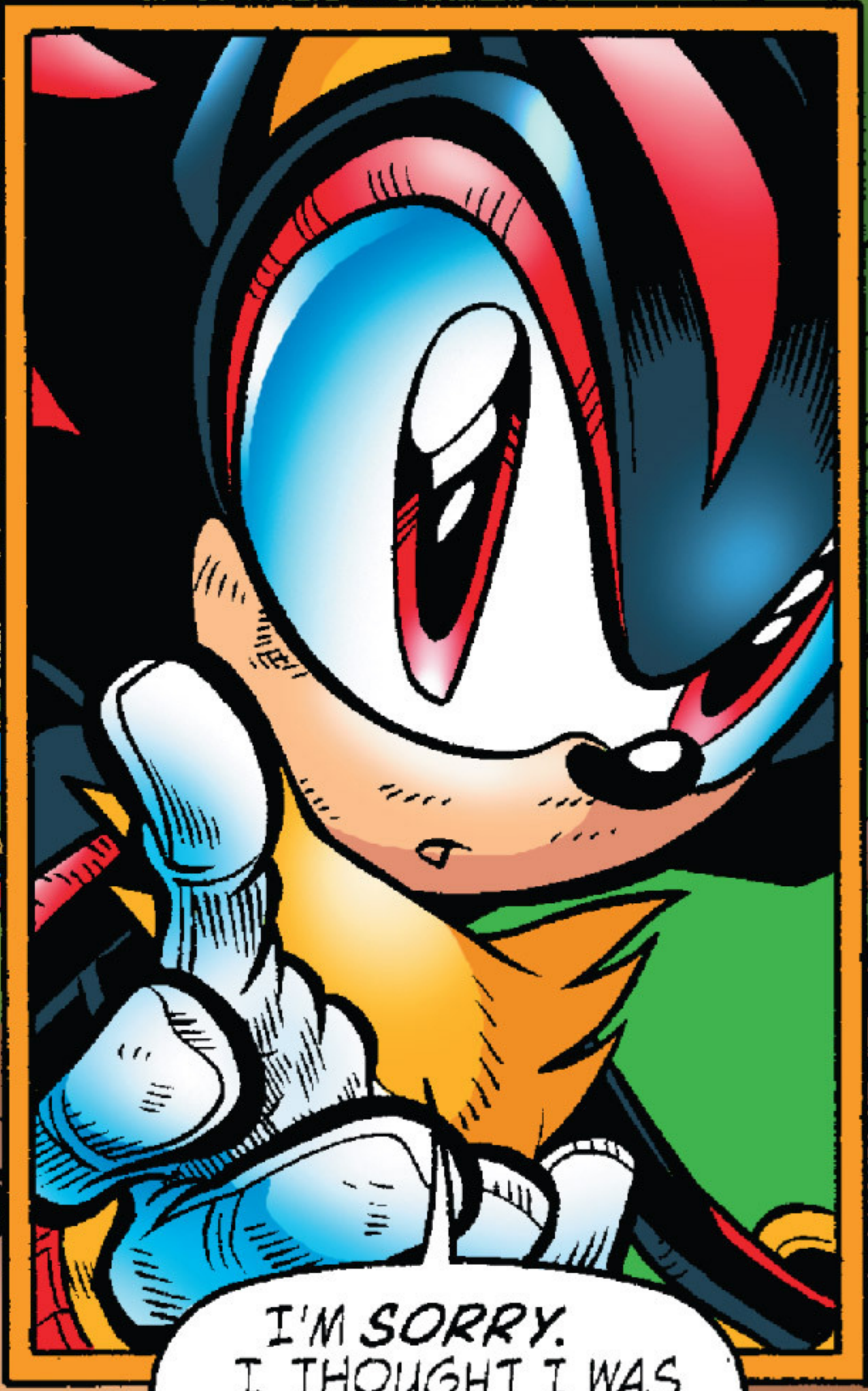
UGH!

KLOK

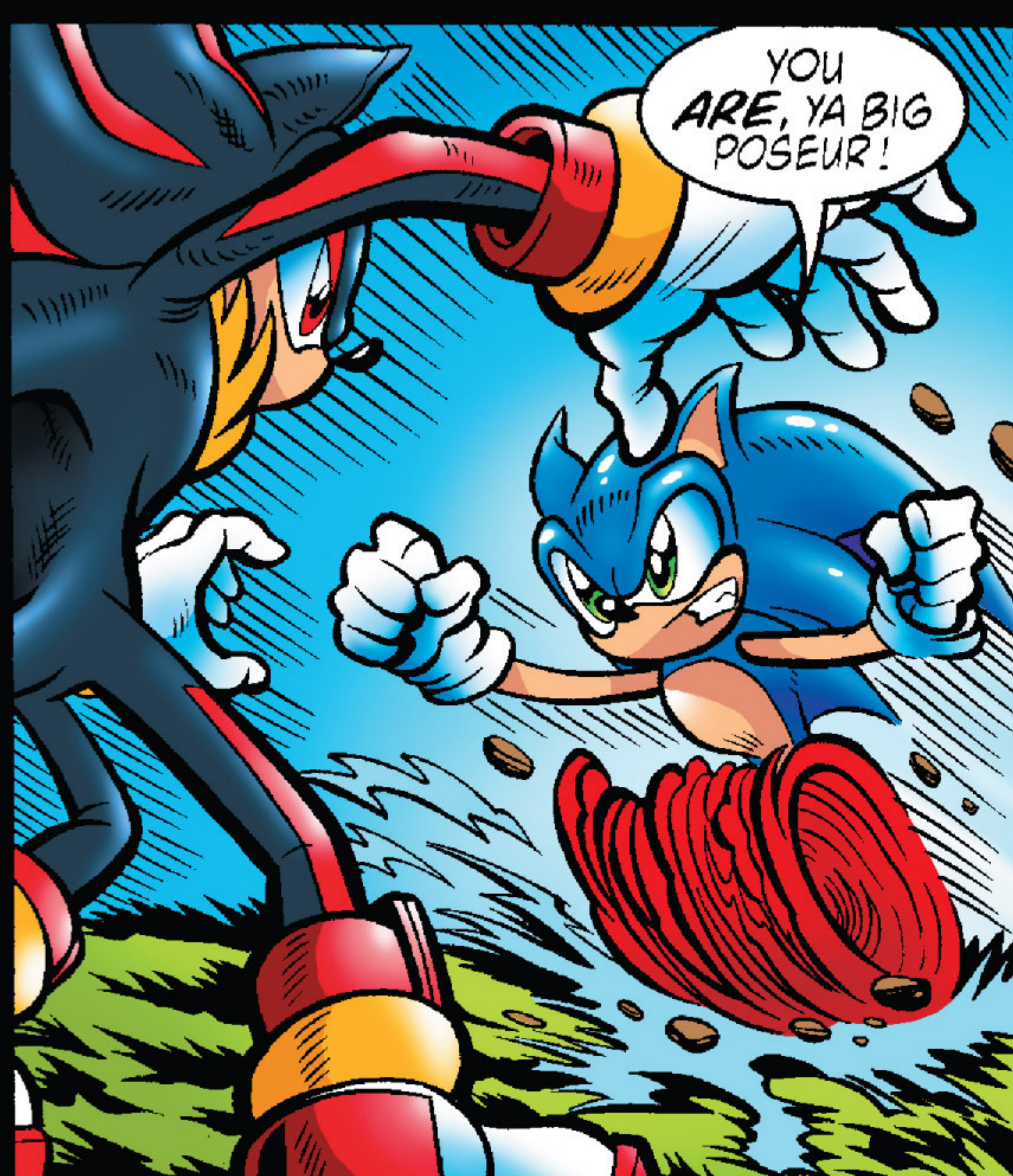


HOLD IT, RIGHT THERE, BUSTER-- WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE!

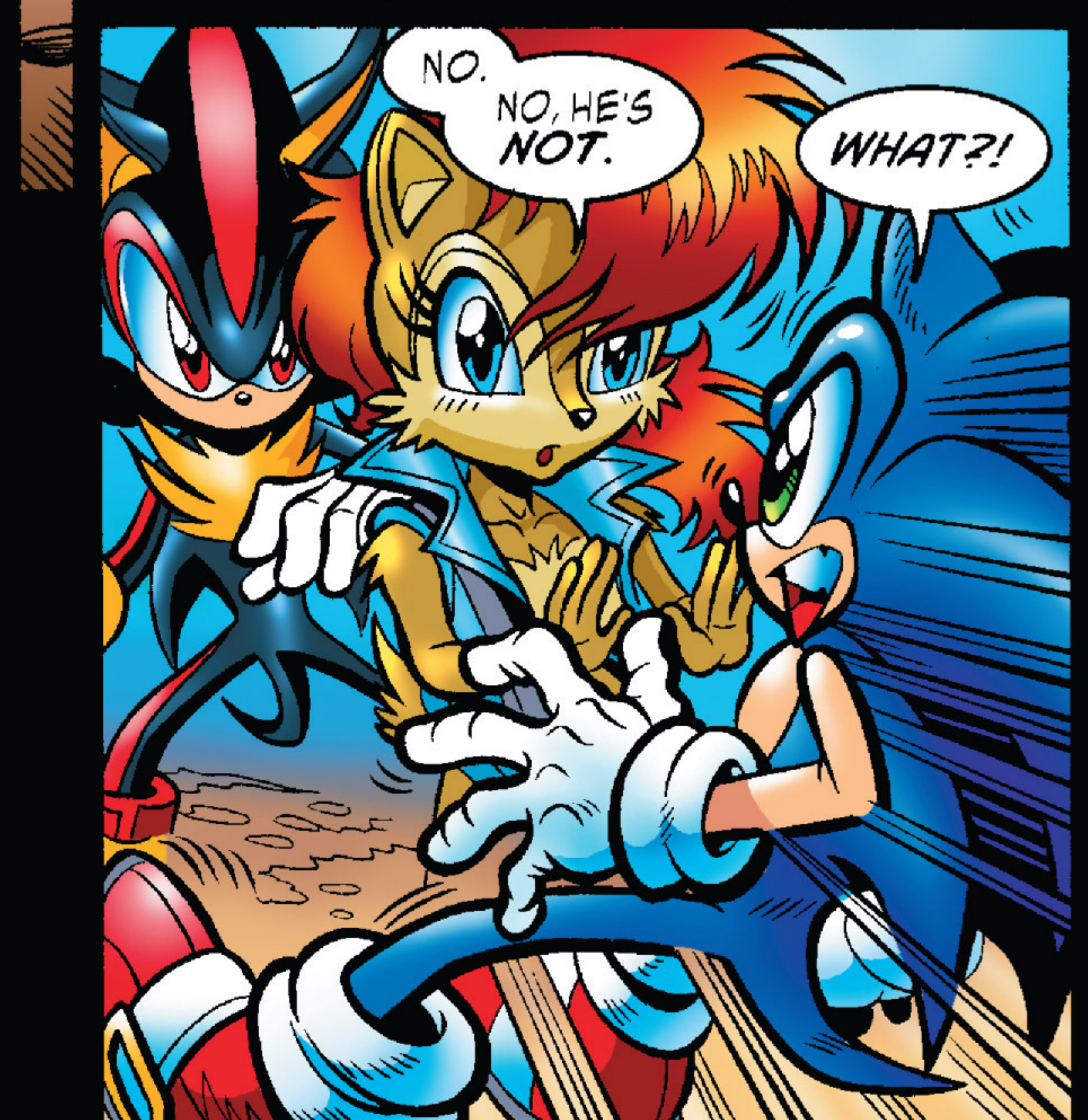
WHO I-- I--



I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT I WAS STILL UNDER ATTACK.



YOU ARE, YA BIG POSEUR!



NO. NO, HE'S NOT.

WHAT?!



WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, NICOLE'S EMERGENCY BEACON IS FLASHING.

Thank you, Princess. I'm picking up an urgent SIGNAL. Its source - Castle Acorn.



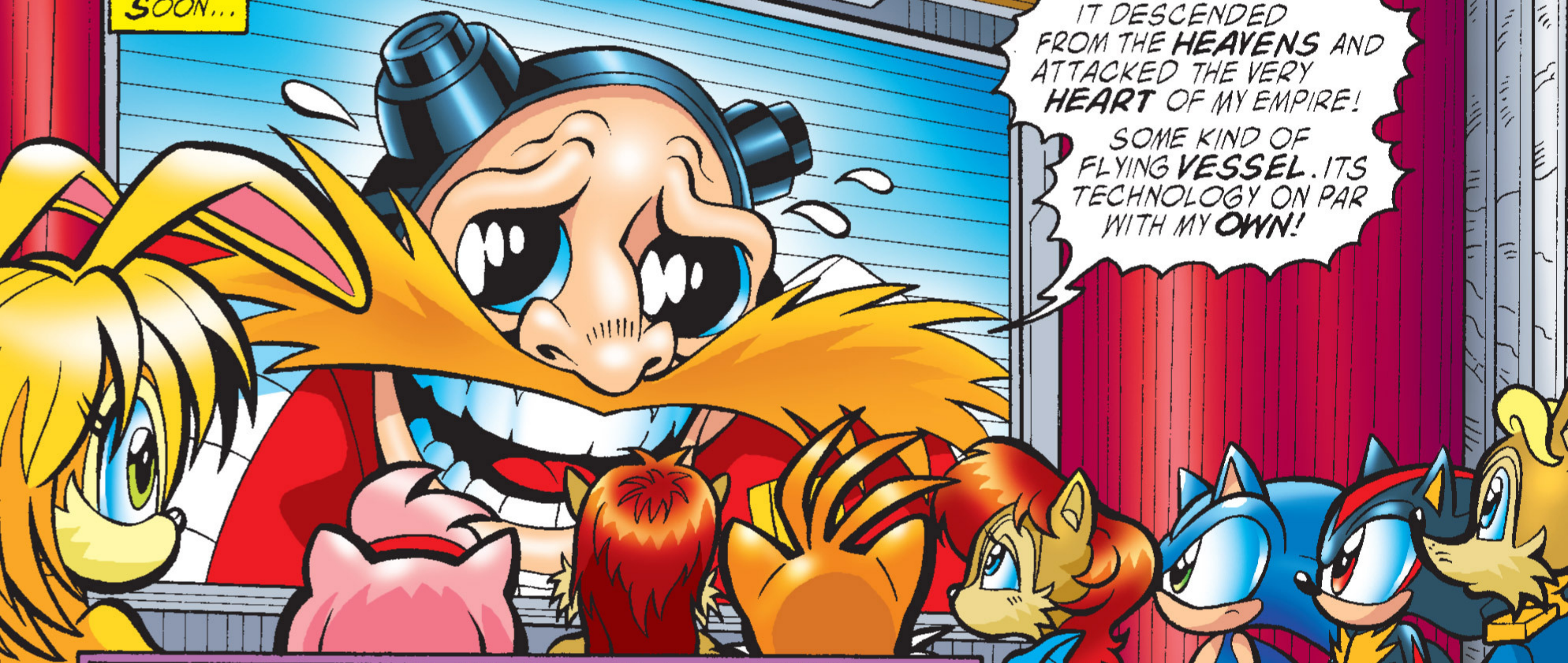
YOU HEARD HER, FREEDOM FIGHTERS -- WE'RE NEEDED THERE AT ONCE.

SONIC, YOU CAN RESOLVE (AS IN QUIETLY DISCUSS) YOUR MIS-UNDERSTANDING WITH SHADOW LATER.

SOON...

IT DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS AND ATTACKED THE VERY HEART OF MY EMPIRE!

SOME KIND OF FLYING VESSEL. ITS TECHNOLOGY ON PAR WITH MY OWN!



"SCORES OF SHADOW-BOTS WERE INSTANTLY ANNIHILATED."



"POOR SNIVELY IS MISSING."

"MEGAOPOLIS LIES IN RUINS."



WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU SAY? ALL YOU'VE EVER DONE IS TRY TO HURT ME AND MY KINGDOM.

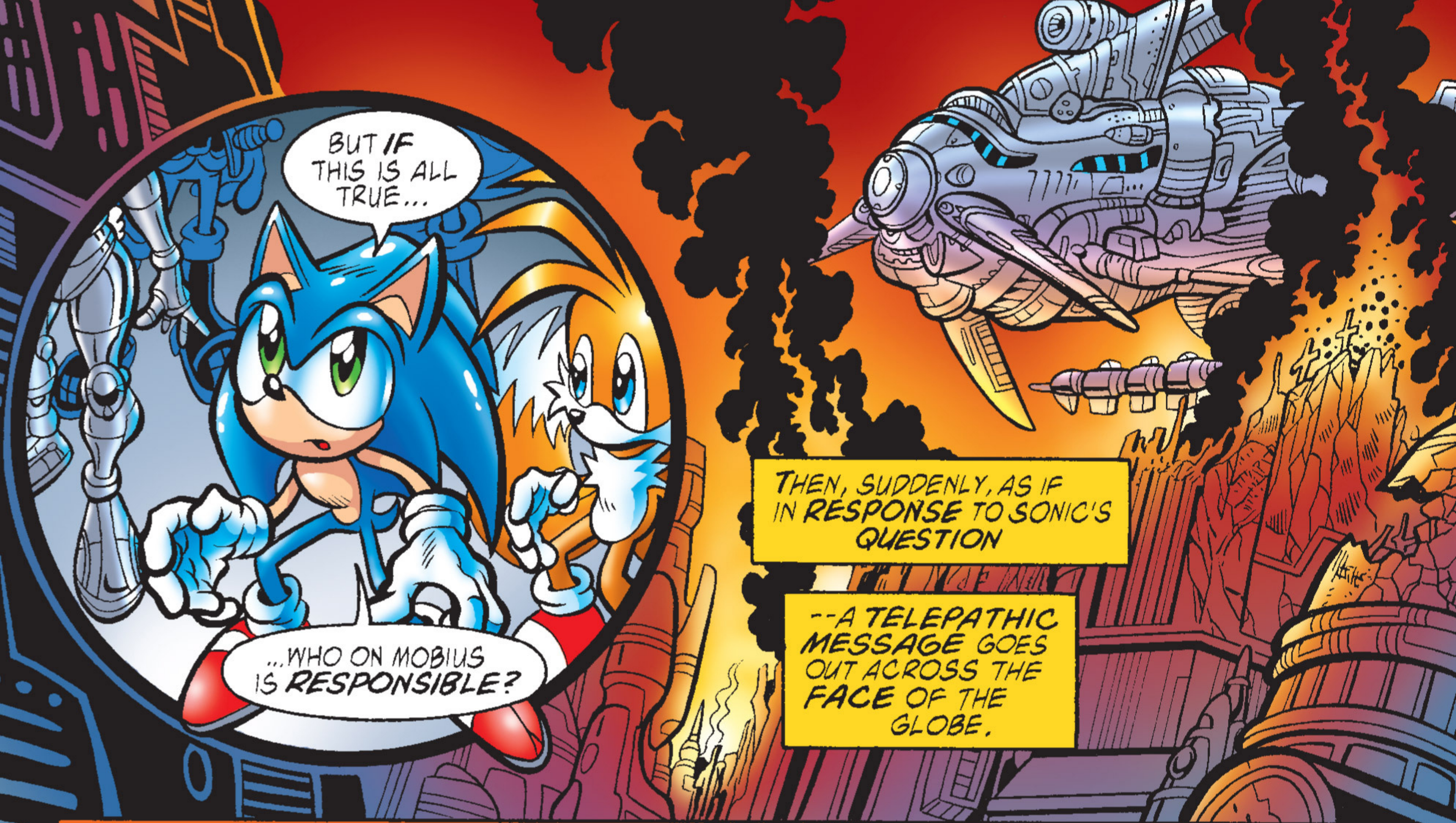
DESPITE HIS PAST TREACHERY, I THINK THE EGGMAN SPEAKS THE TRUTH NOW.

I ENCOUNTERED THE VESSEL EARLIER.



Incoming HOLO-TRANSMIT from Station Square.

KNOTHOLE STATION SQUARE ATTACKED PRESIDENT INJURED.

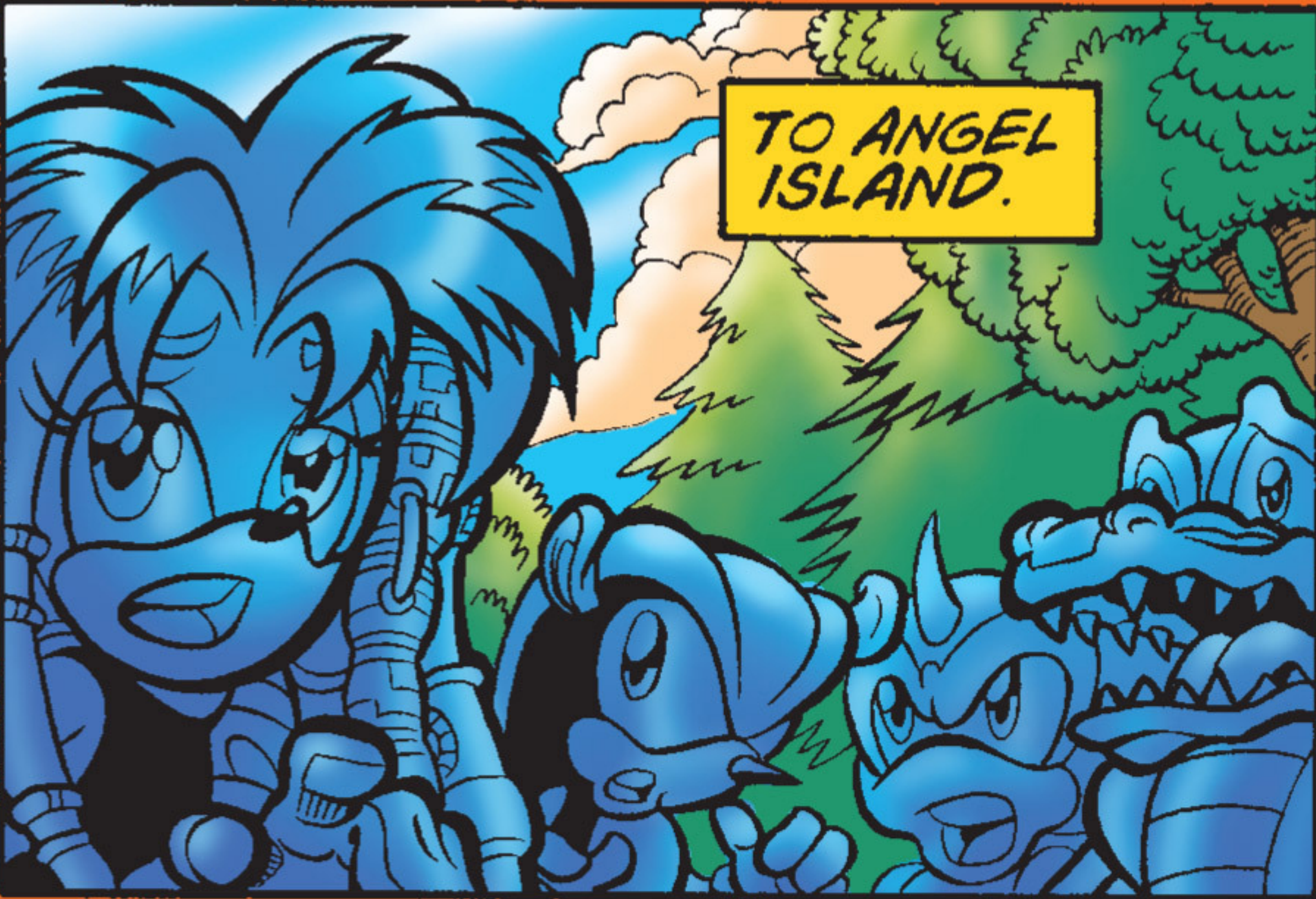


BUT IF THIS IS ALL TRUE...

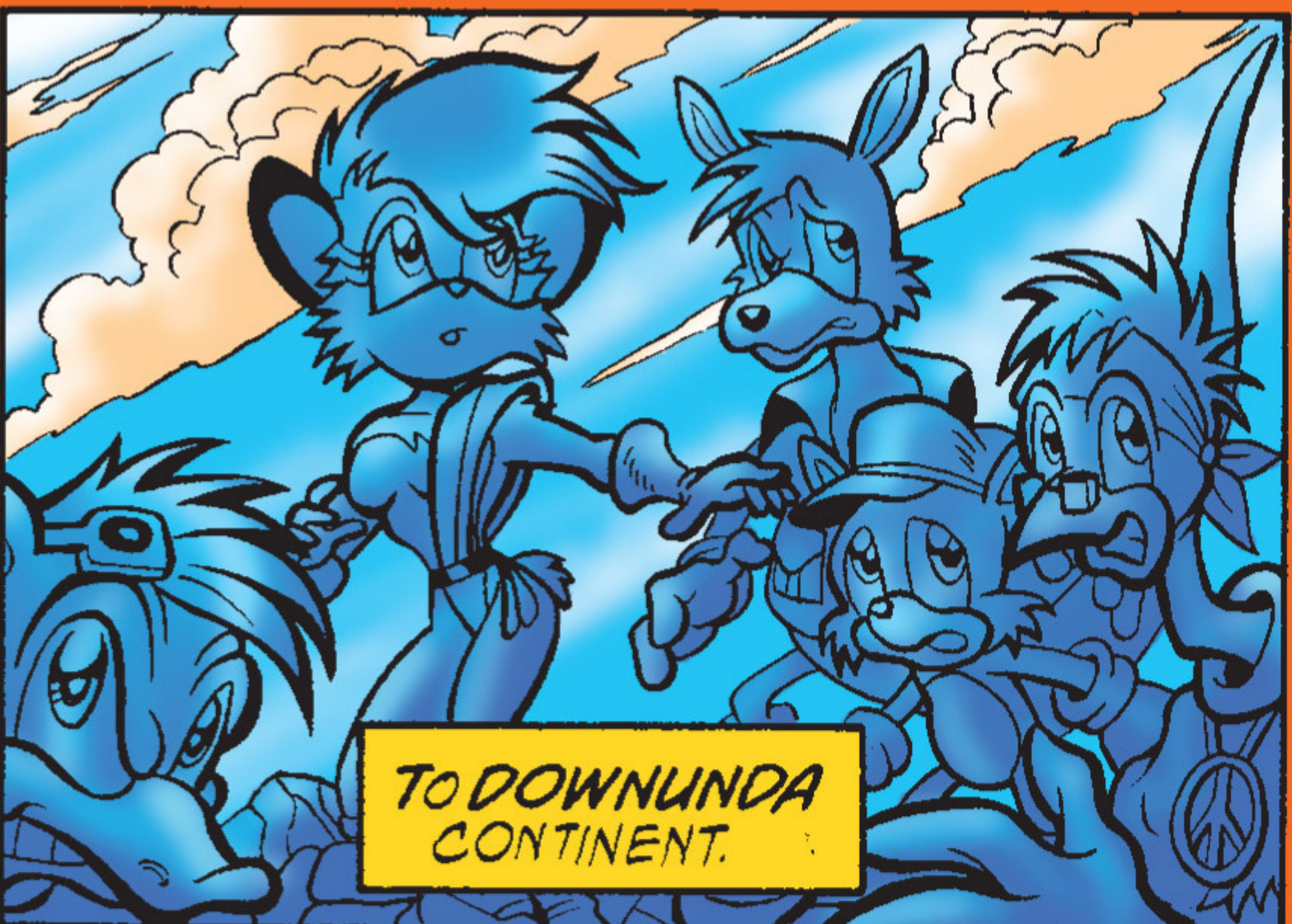
...WHO ON MOBIUS IS RESPONSIBLE?

THEN, SUDDENLY, AS IF IN RESPONSE TO SONIC'S QUESTION

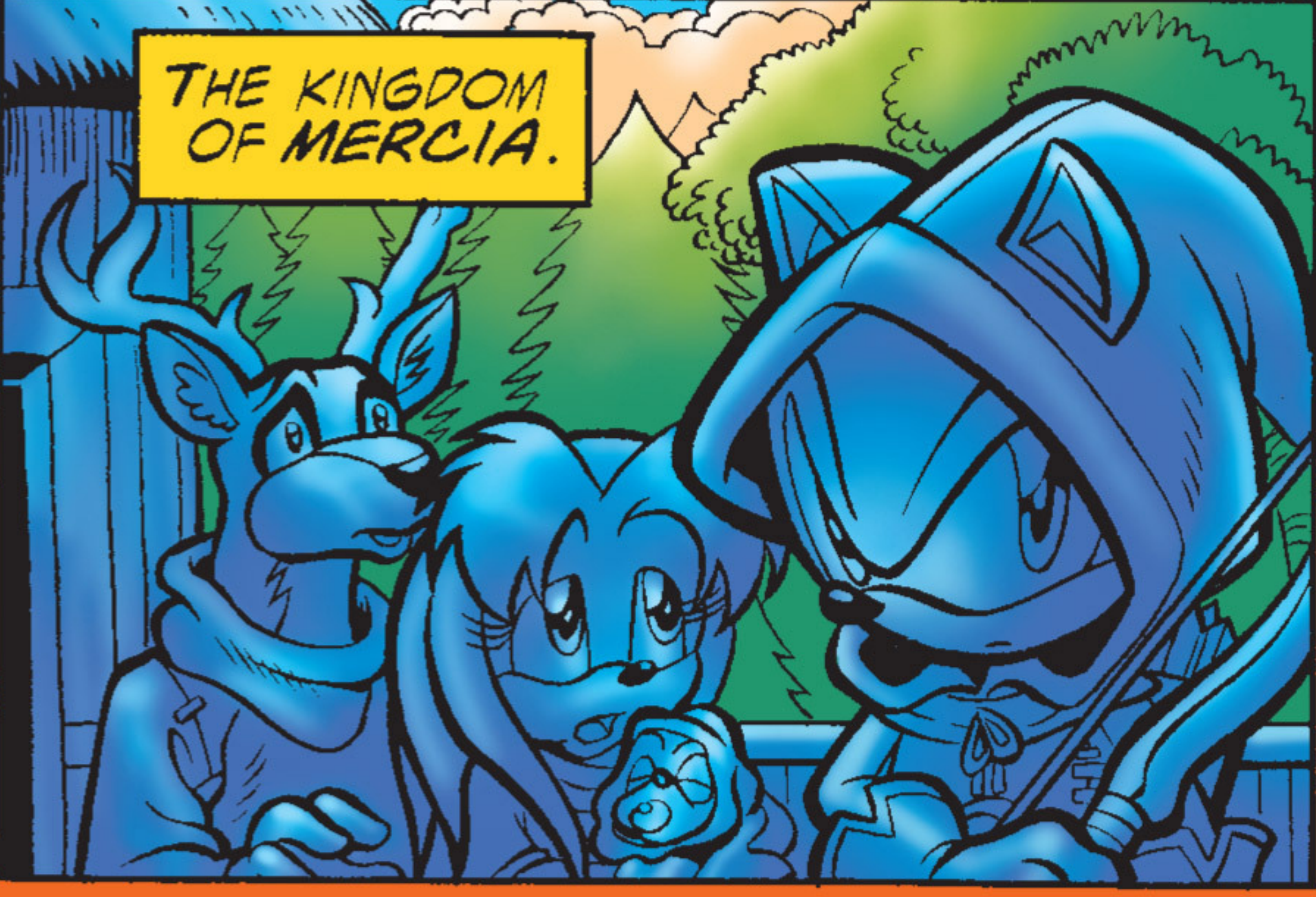
--A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE GOES OUT ACROSS THE FACE OF THE GLOBE.



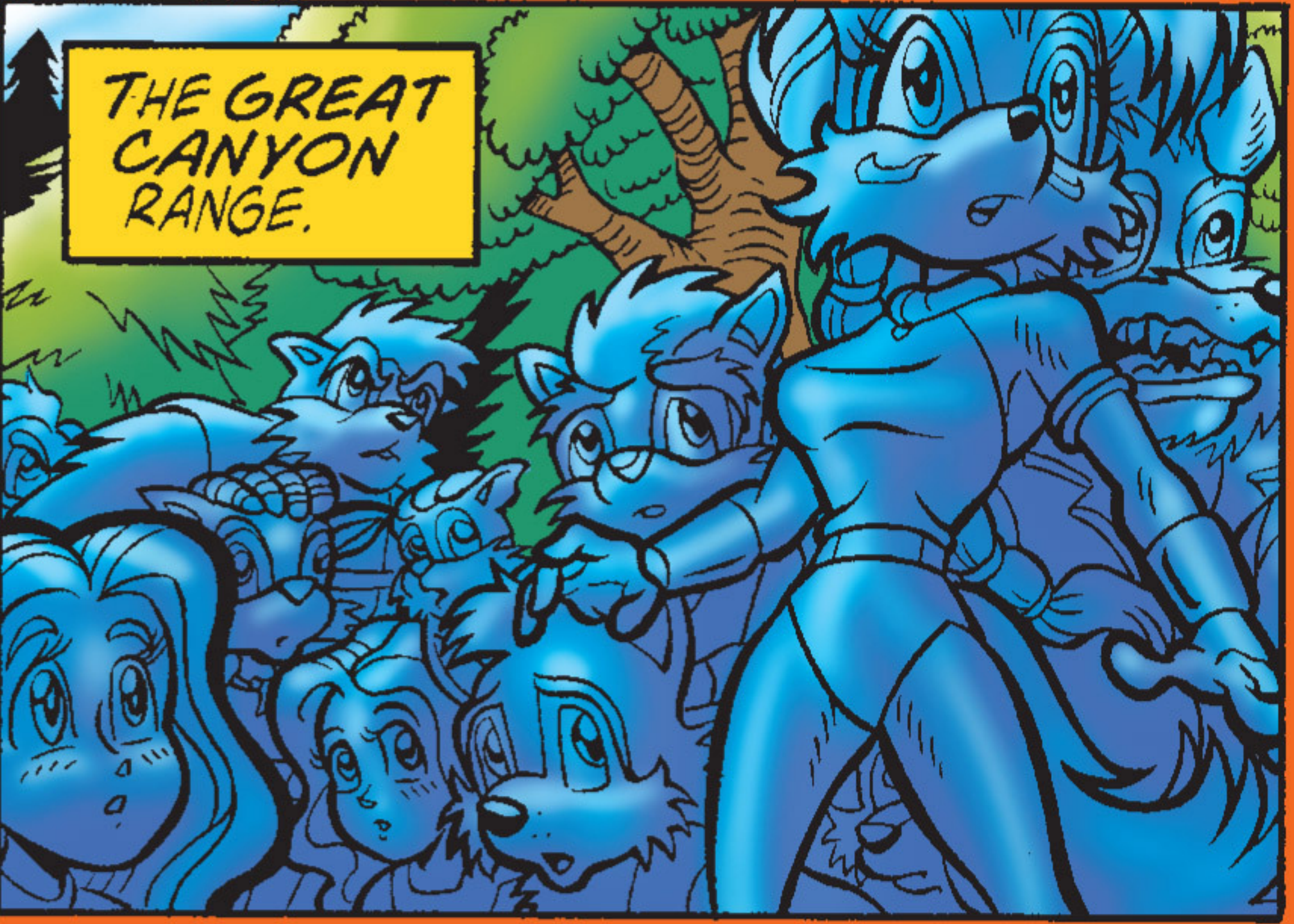
TO ANGEL ISLAND.



TO DOWNUNDA CONTINENT.



THE KINGDOM OF MERCIA.



THE GREAT CANYON RANGE.



EVERYWHERE. NO MIND IS LEFT UNTOUCHED.

SENTIENT INHABITANTS OF PLANET EARTH.

WE ARE THE XORDA.

OBSERVE, THRICE MILLENIA PAST.

"THE XORDA CAME TO THIS MUD-SPHERE TO OFFER AN ALLIANCE TO ITS HUMAN POPULACE.

"PEACE.

"AN EMISSARY WAS DISPATCHED TO THE SURFACE OF YOUR EARTH.

"BUT WAS INSTEAD CAPTURED.

IMPRISONED.

DISSECTED.

"THE XORDA REACTION--

"--WAS A STRONG ONE.

"THE XORDA THOUGHT THEIR GENE-BOMBS HAD EXTINGUISHED ALL LIFE HERE THAT DAY."



THE XORDA WERE WRONG.

THE XORDA HAVE RETURNED TO CORRECT THAT OVERSIGHT.

FIDDLESTICKS.



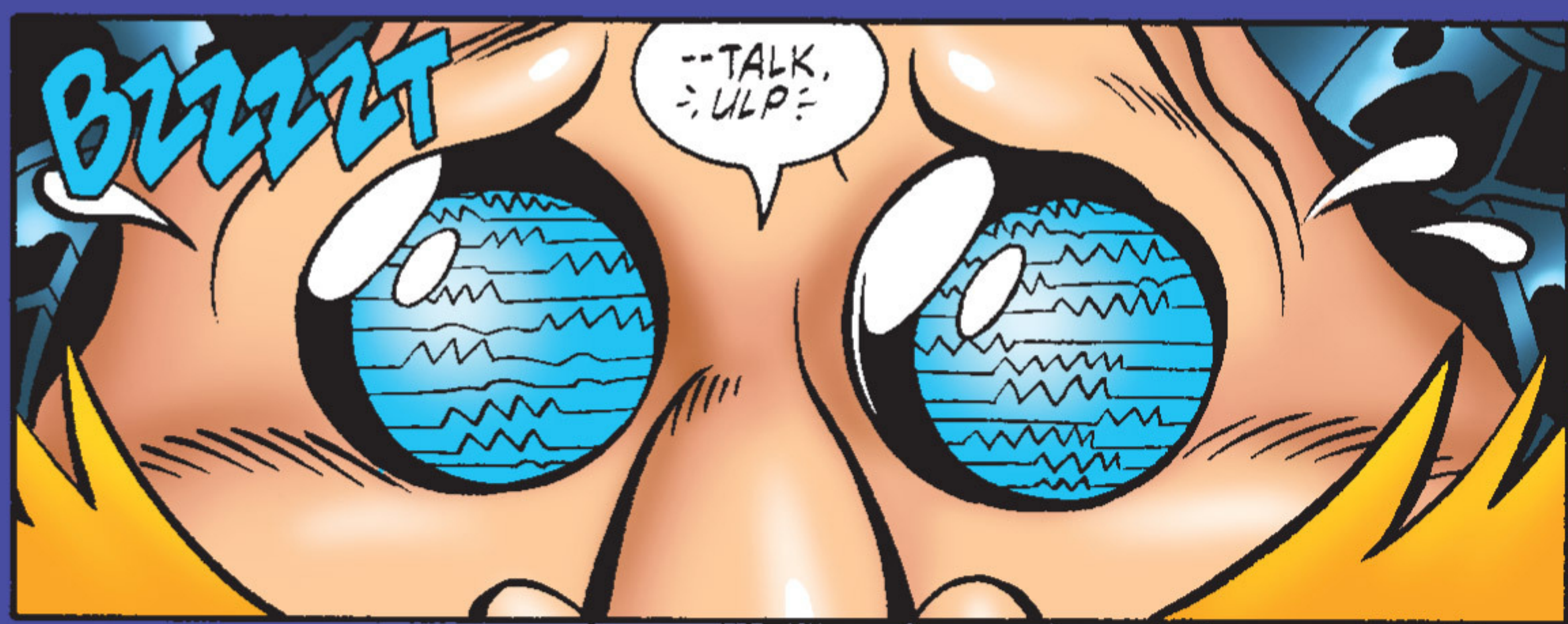
DAD, YOU ENDED ROBOTNIK'S TRANSMISSION IN MID-SENTENCE. WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN WISER TO HEAR HIM OUT?

QUITE THE OPPOSITE SALLY, HE'S NO LONGER ROBOTIC. NO LONGER INVINCIBLE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME HE'S SCARED BETTER TO LET HIM SWEAT. WE CAN USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.



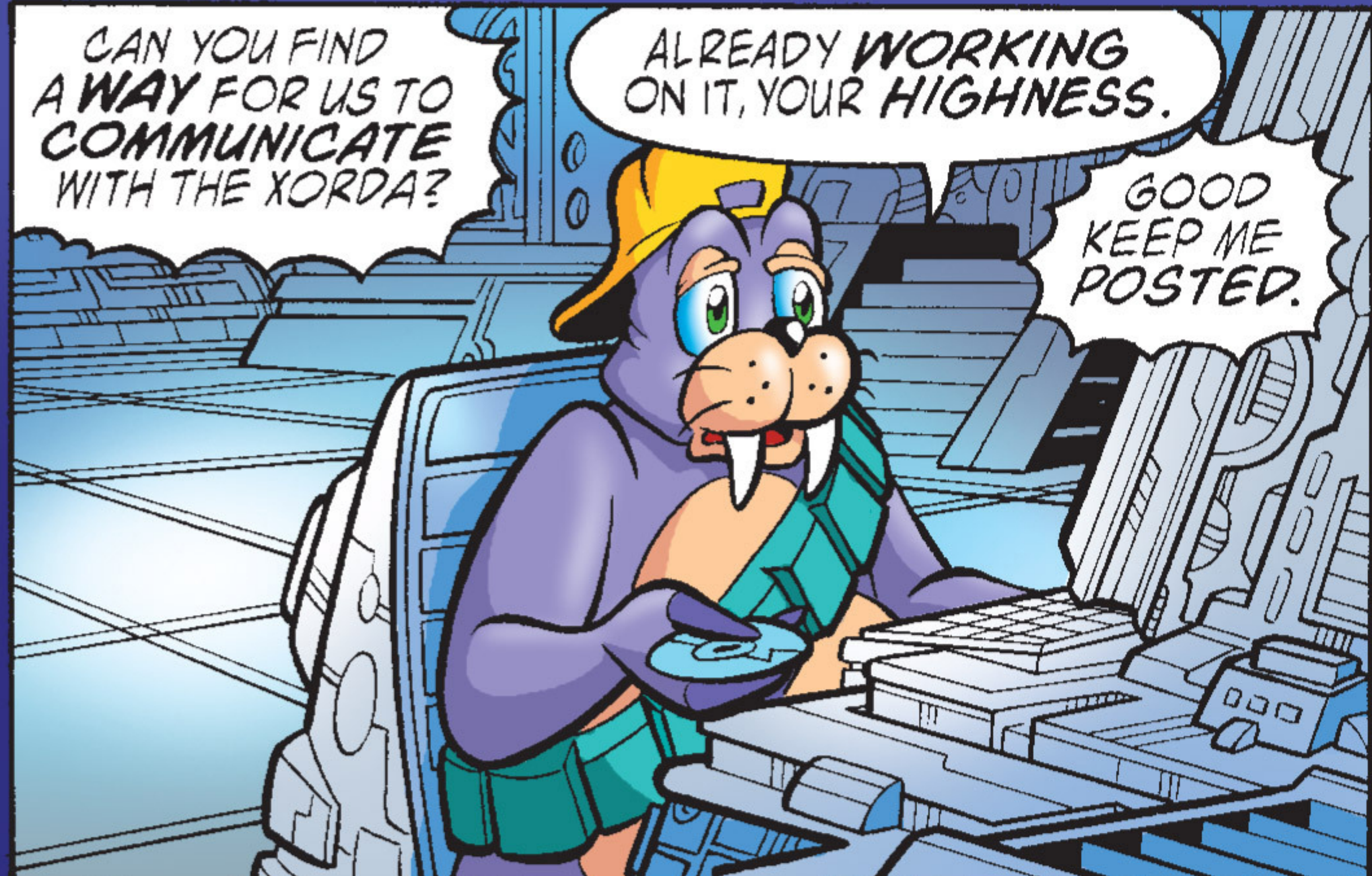
MAX, IT'S BECOMING APPARENT THAT WE SERIOUSLY NEED TO--



--TALK. --ULP--



IN THE MEANTIME... ROTOR?



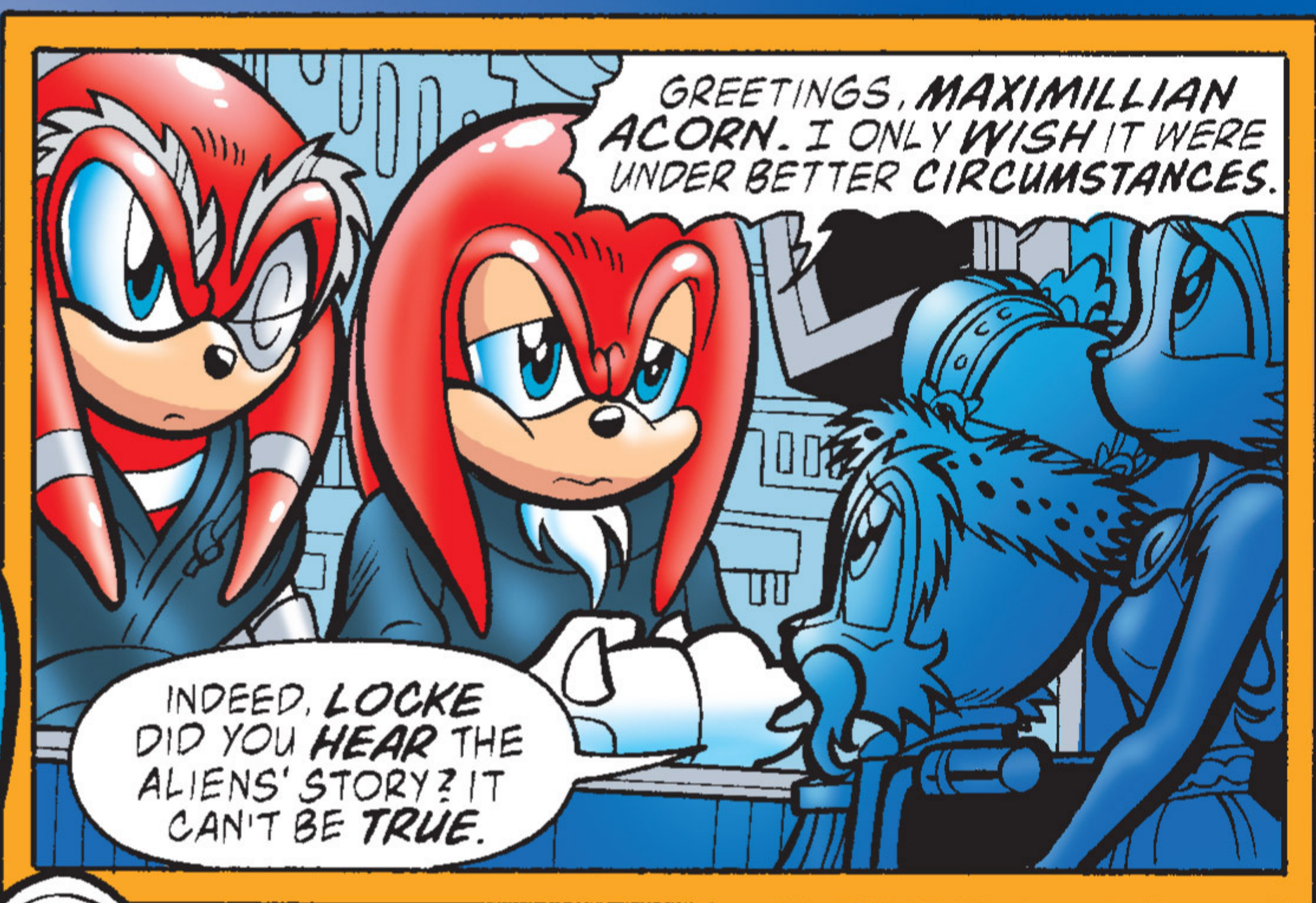
CAN YOU FIND A WAY FOR US TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE XORDA?

ALREADY WORKING ON IT, YOUR HIGHNESS.

GOOD KEEP ME POSTED.

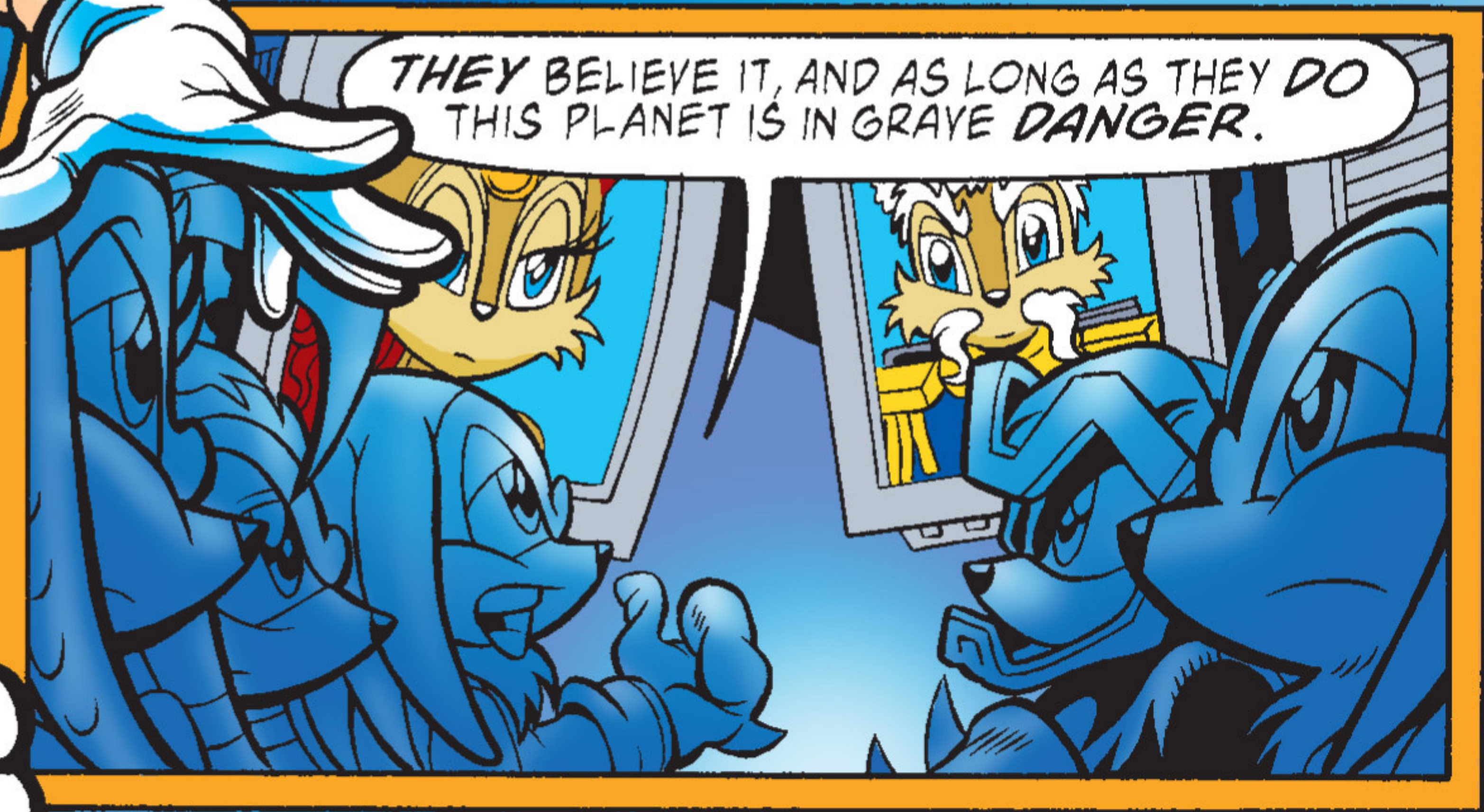


THOSE BOZO ALIENS HAVE GOT THE **WRONG** PLANET. **THIS** IS MOBIUS, NOT "URF"!

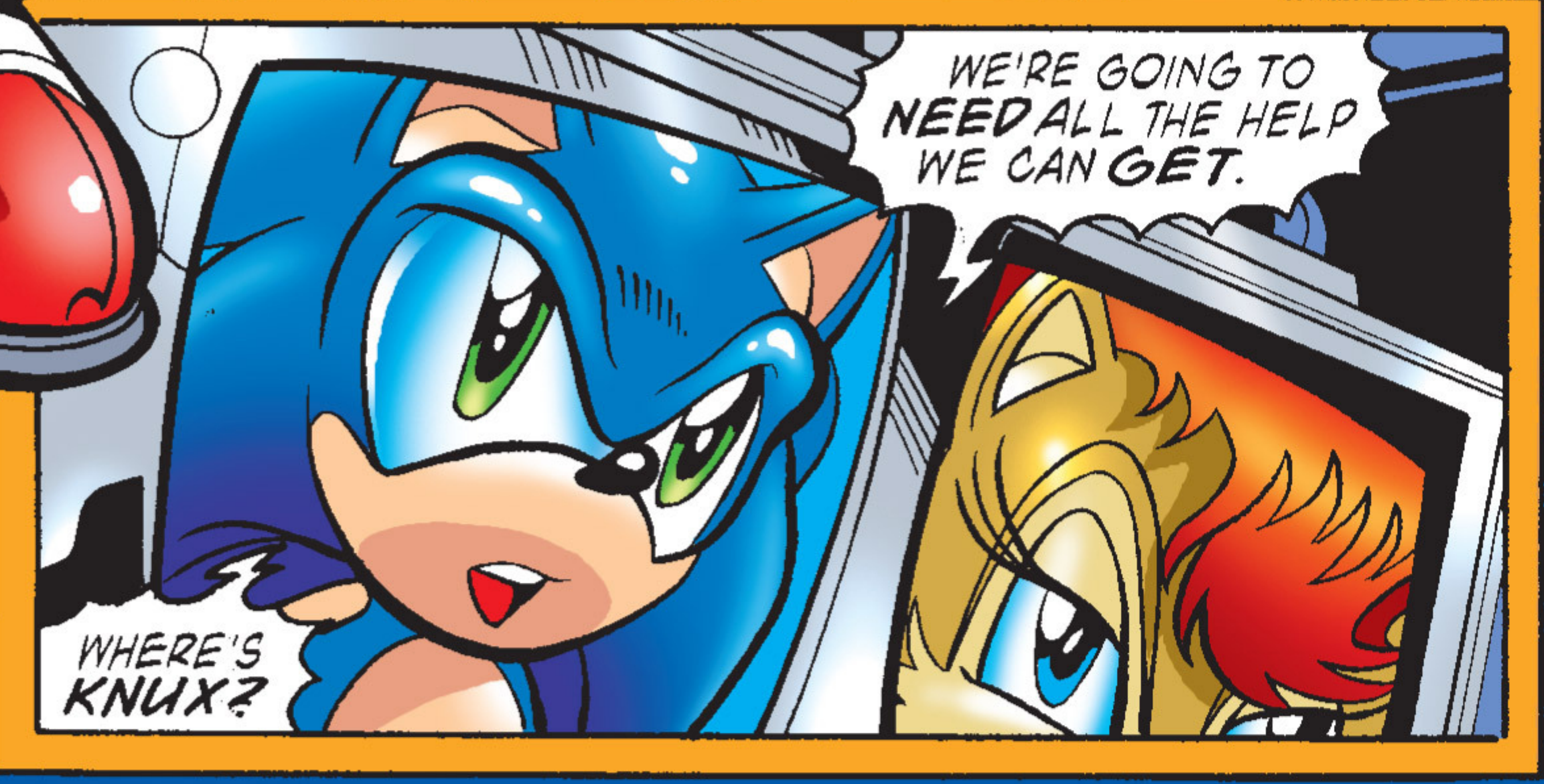


GREETINGS, **MAXIMILLIAN ACORN**. I ONLY WISH IT WERE UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES.

INDEED, **LOCKE** DID YOU **HEAR** THE ALIENS' STORY? IT CAN'T BE **TRUE**.



THEY BELIEVE IT, AND AS LONG AS THEY DO THIS PLANET IS IN **GRAVE DANGER**.



WE'RE GOING TO **NEED** ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

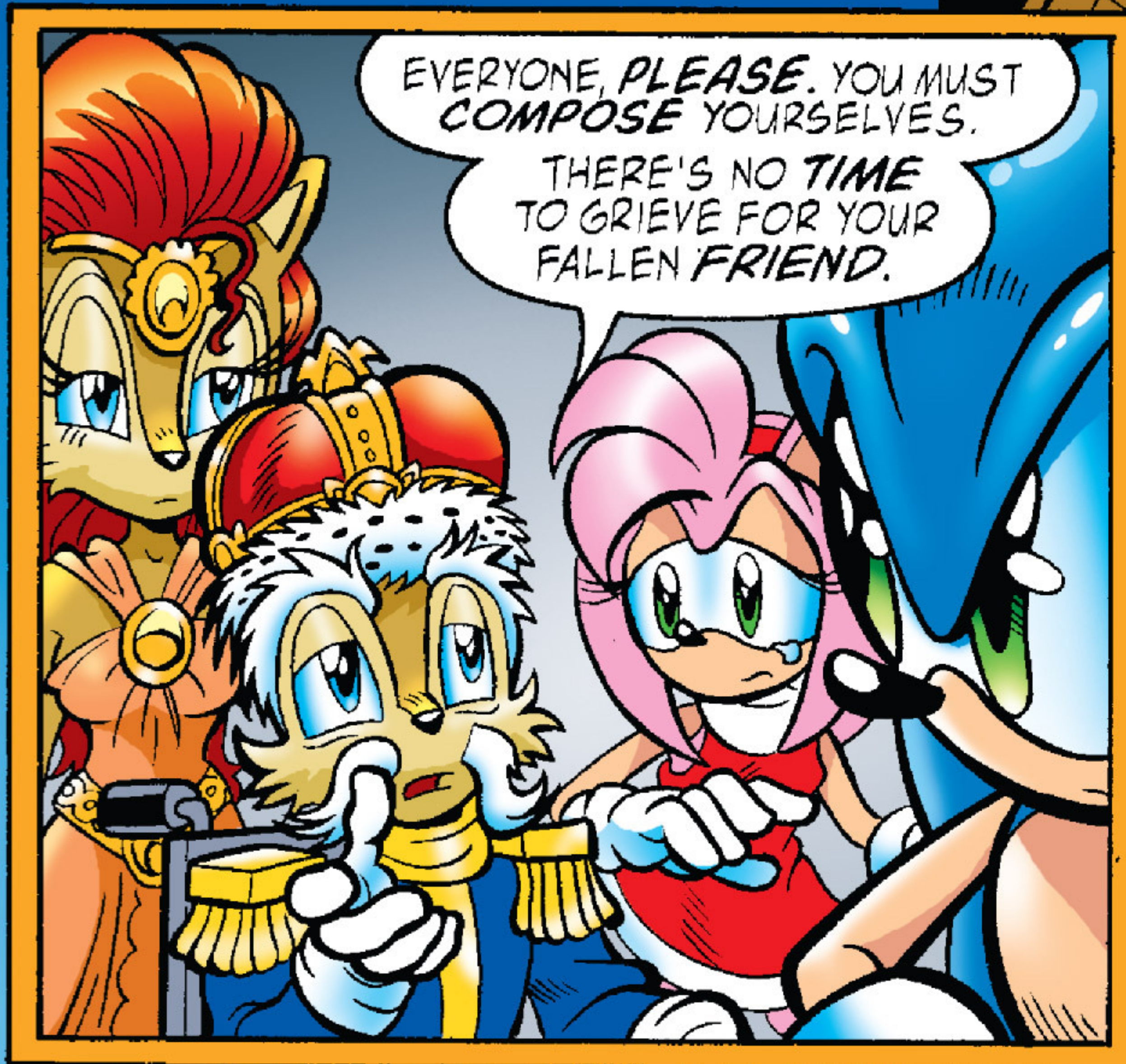
WHERE'S **KNUX**?



SONIC... **KNUCKLES IS DEAD**.

NO!!

HOW?!

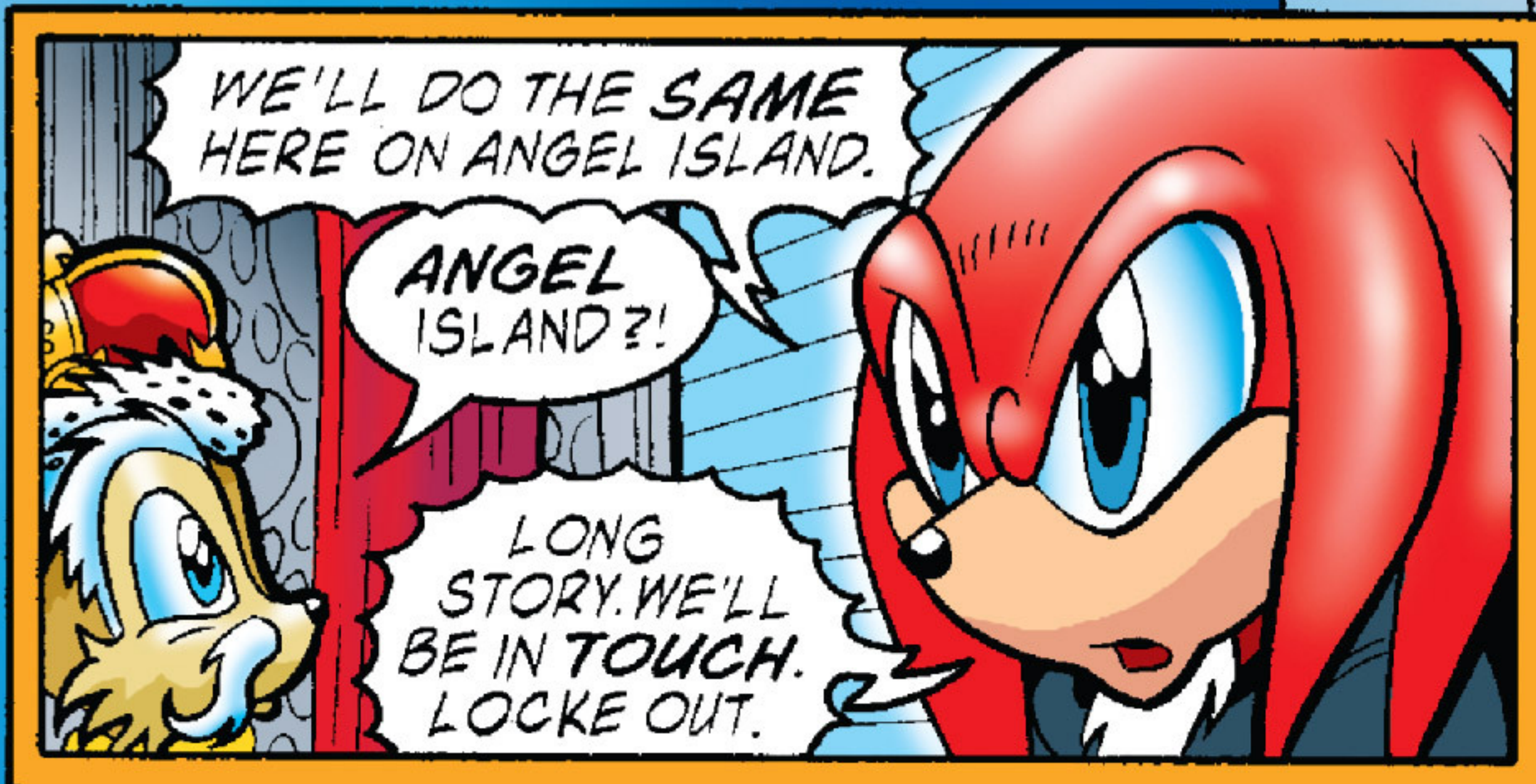


EVERYONE, PLEASE. YOU MUST COMPOSE YOURSELVES. THERE'S NO TIME TO GRIEVE FOR YOUR FALLEN FRIEND.



HE-HE'S RIGHT. NICOLE AND I ARE GOING TO DO SOME HISTORICAL RESEARCH.

WE'LL FIND A WAY TO PROVE THE XORDA ARE WRONG!



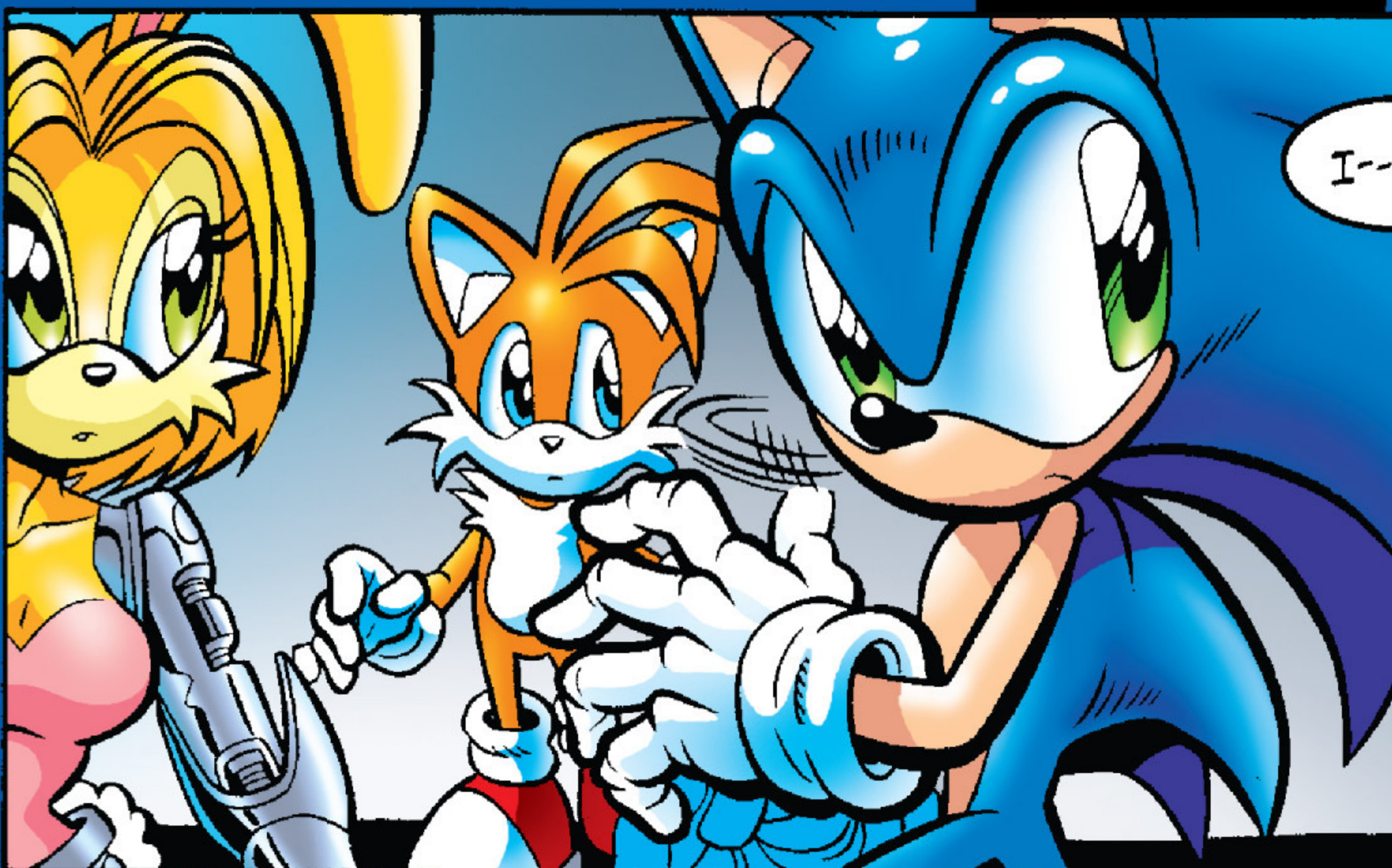
WE'LL DO THE SAME HERE ON ANGEL ISLAND.

ANGEL ISLAND?!

LONG STORY. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH. LOCKE OUT.

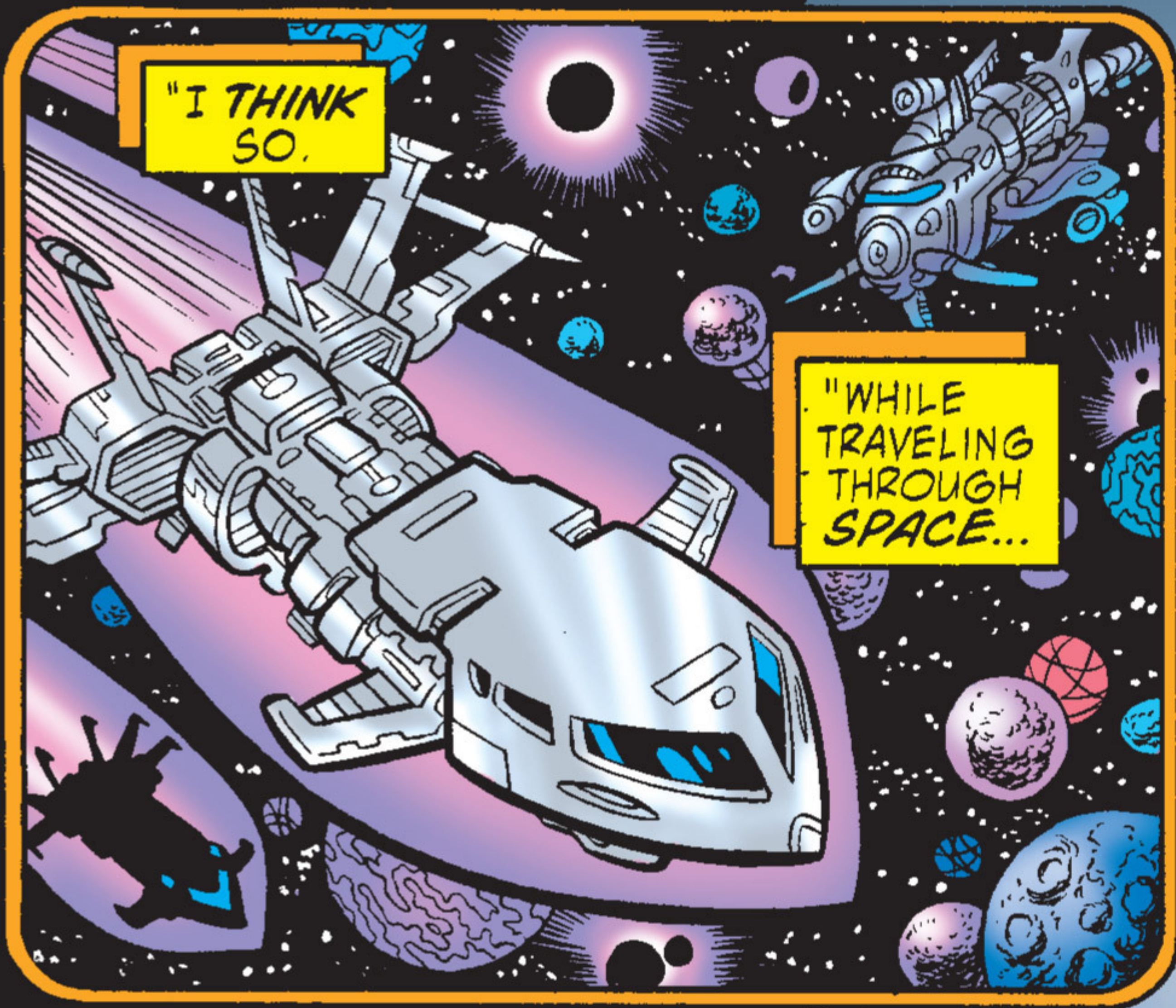


AND ANOTHER THING: WHY'D IT TAKE THESE LOSERS OVER THREE-THOUSAND YEARS TO FIGURE OUT THEY BOTCHED THE JOB?



I--I--

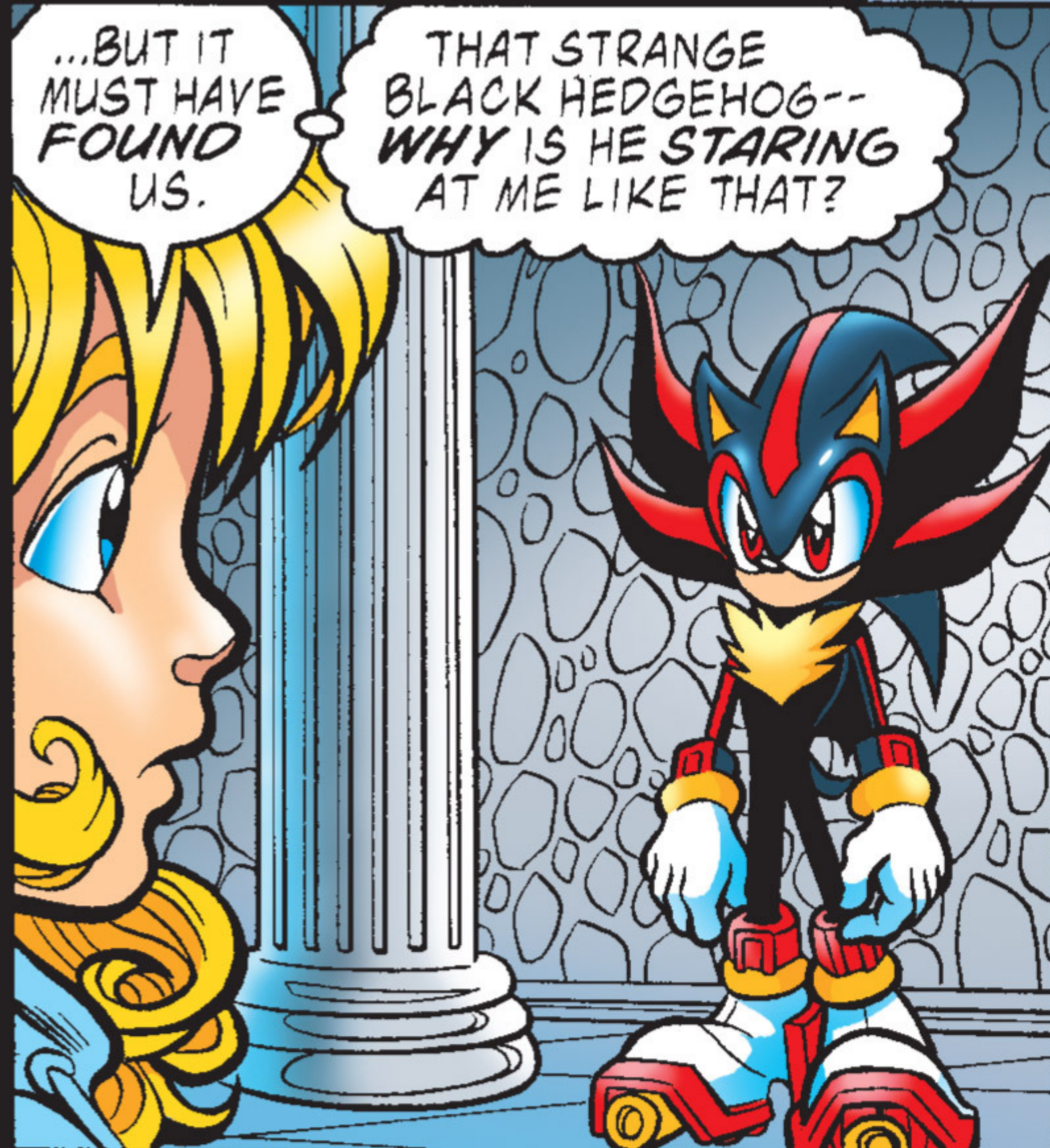
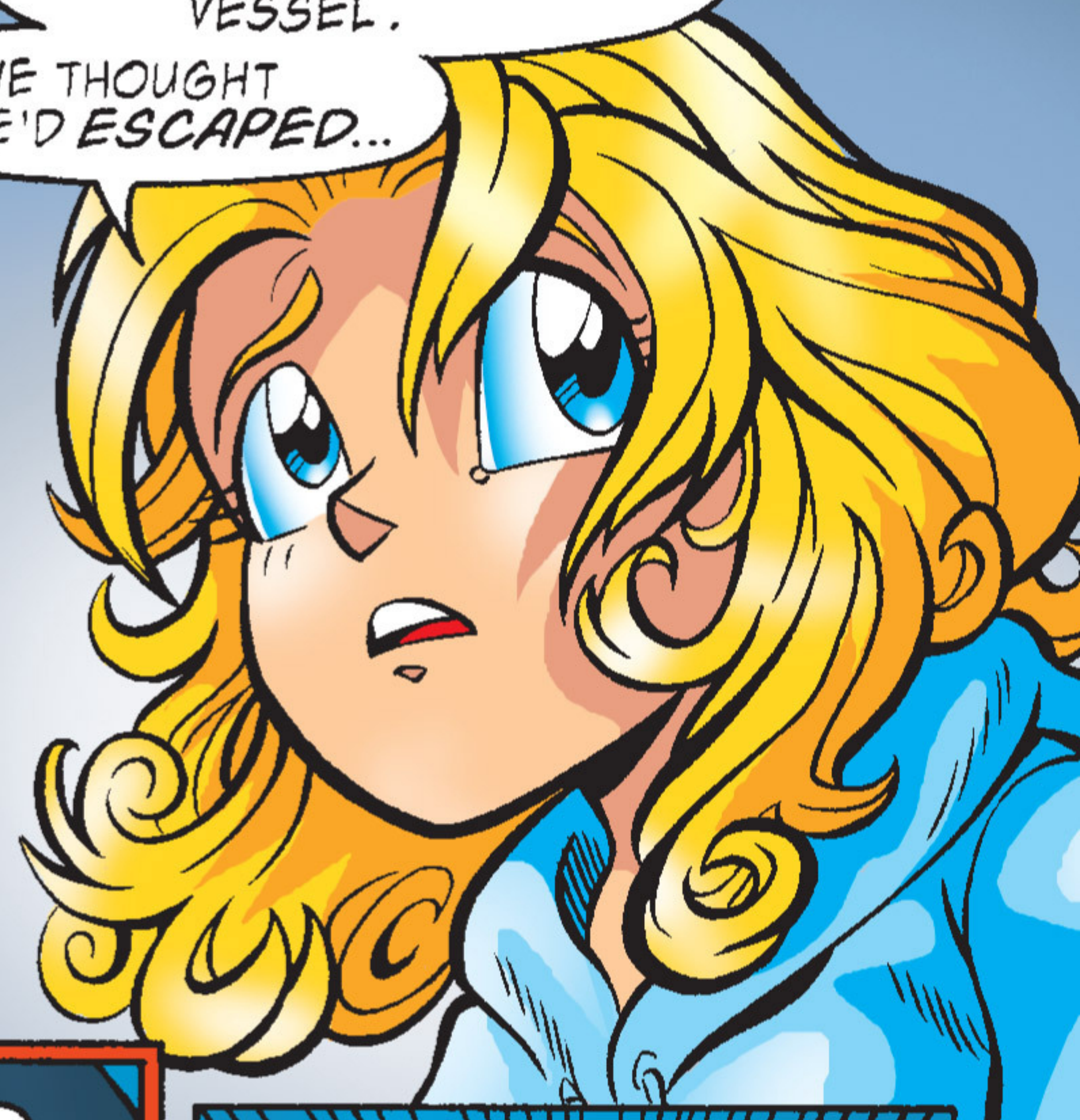
--THINK I KNOW.



"I THINK SO."

"WHILE TRAVELING THROUGH SPACE..."

...OUR OVERLANDER SHIPS WERE ATTACKED BY THAT SAME ALIEN VESSEL.
WE THOUGHT WE'D ESCAPED...

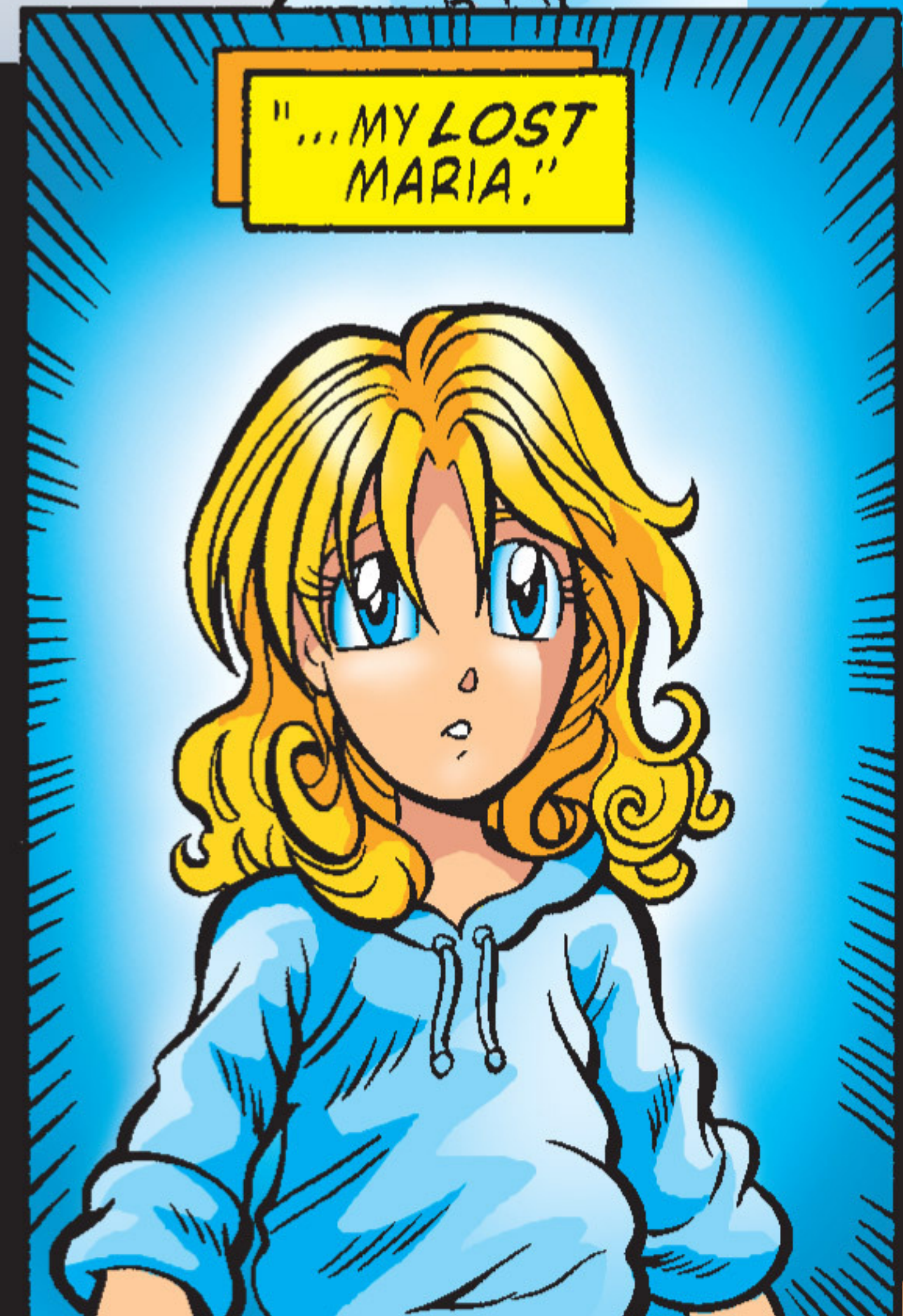


...BUT IT MUST HAVE FOUND US.

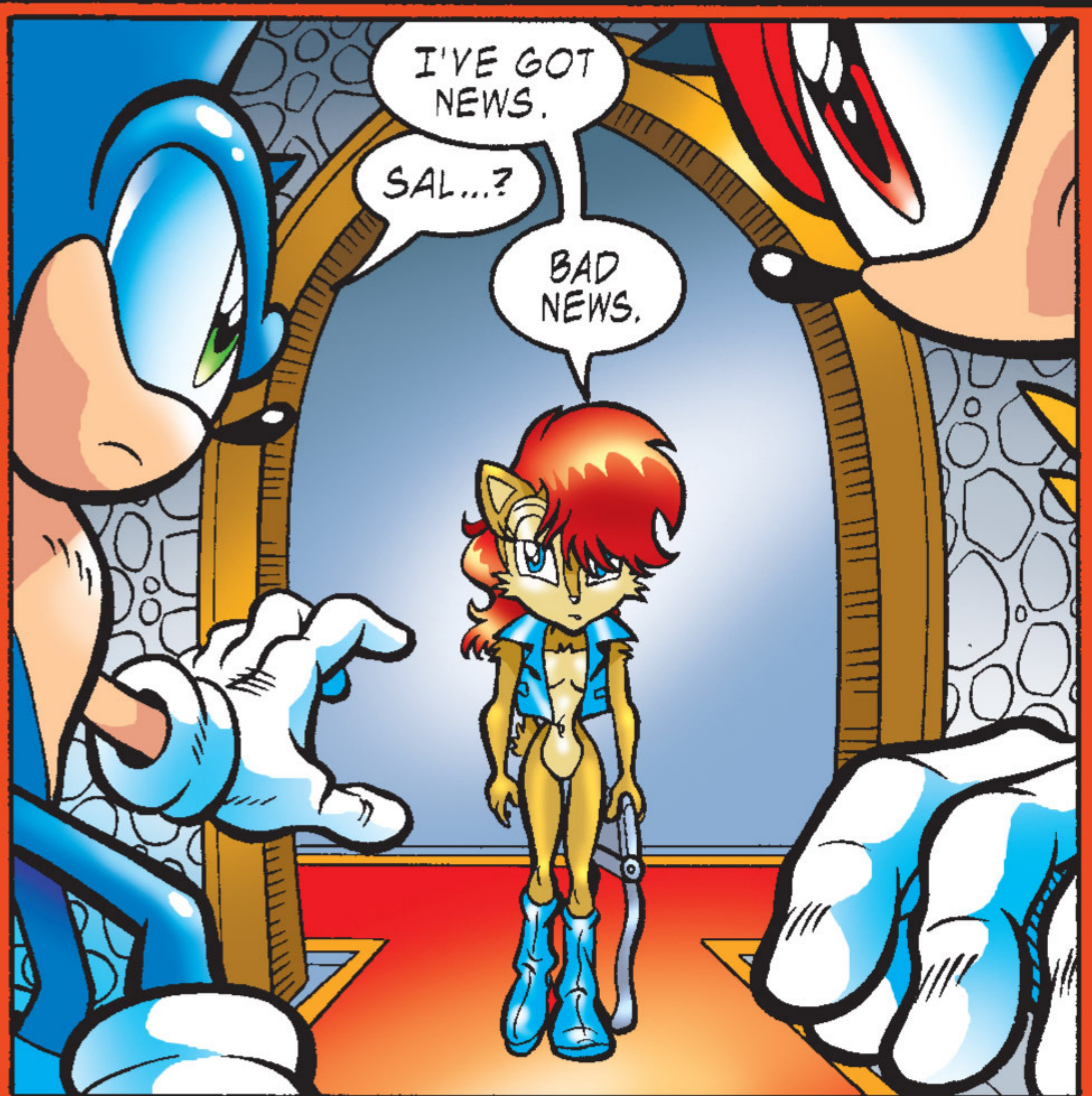
THAT STRANGE BLACK HEDGEHOG-- WHY IS HE STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?



THAT OVERLANDER GIRL-- SHE SOMEHOW REMINDS ME OF--



"...MY LOST MARIA."



I'VE GOT NEWS.

SAL...?

BAD NEWS.



THE XORDA ARE RIGHT. MOBIUS AND EARTH...

...ARE REALLY THE SAME PLANET!

NEXT: SONIC ADVENTURE 2.5: ΩMEGA!

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

HAS DIED AND NOW STANDS BEFORE AURORA, AWAITING HIS FINAL FATE...

I ALREADY LIVED MY LIFE ONCE, AURORA--

--SO WHAT'S WITH THE RERUN?

DOES IT END DIFFERENTLY THE SECOND TIME AROUND?

AFTERLIFE

Part Four

ONLY YOU CAN DETERMINE THAT, KNUCKLES!

WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I DID WHAT I HAD TO!

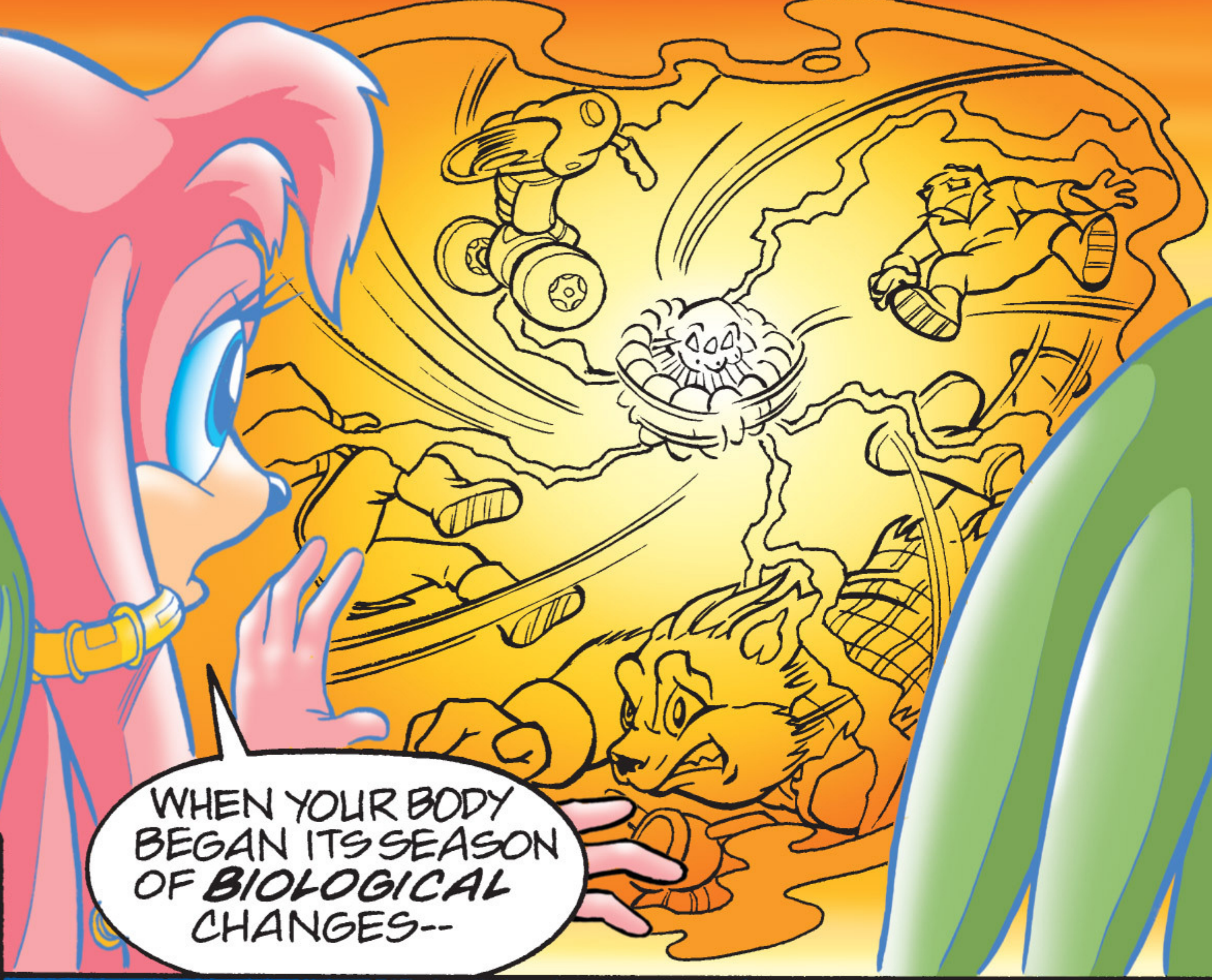
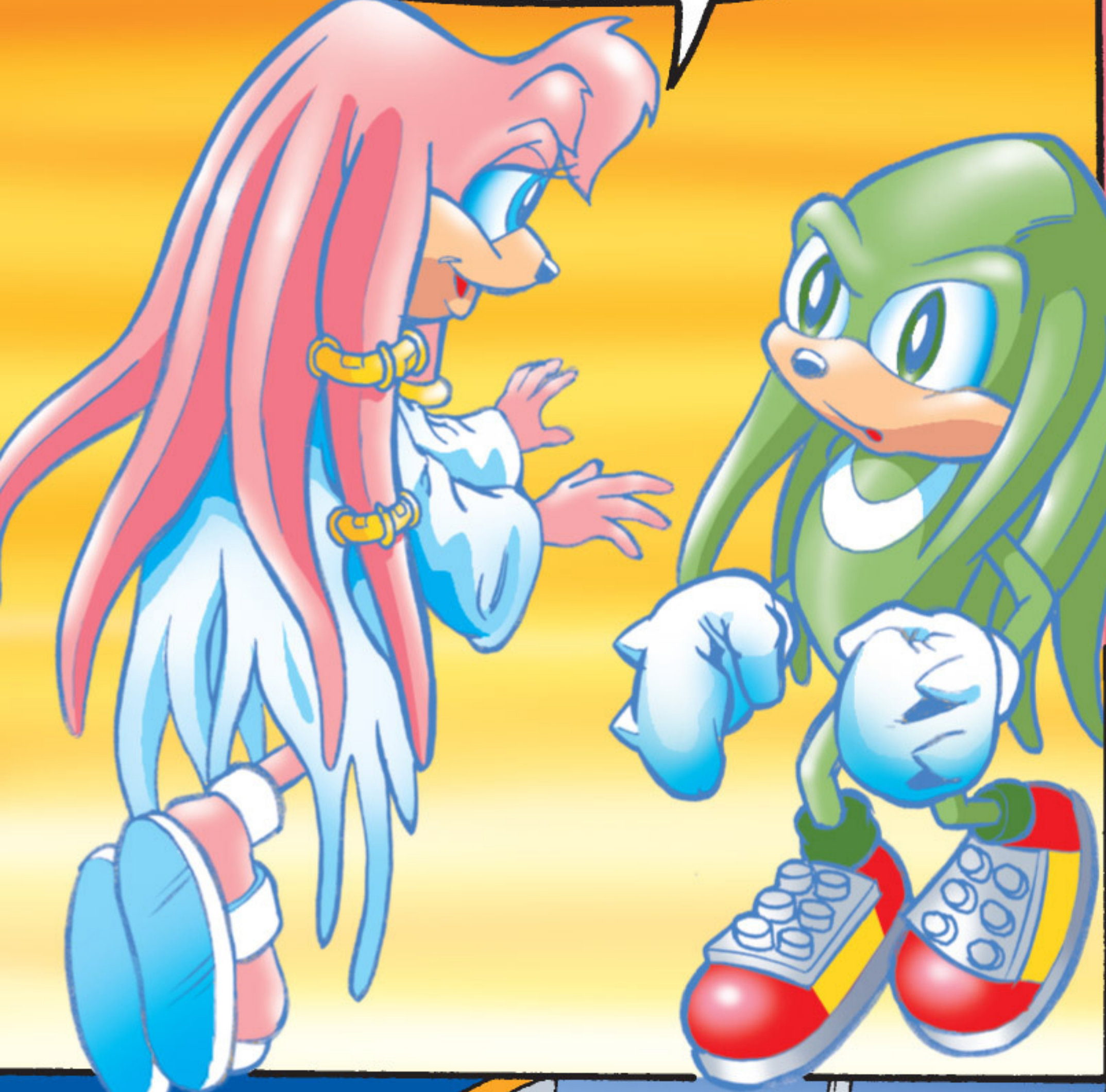
I COULDN'T LET DIMITRI DIE!

COULD I?

IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED--
KEN PENDERS- SCRIPT & INKS
ART MAWHINNEY- PENCILS
VICKIE WILLIAMS- LETTERER
J. JENSEN- COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE- EDITOR
--IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA!

YOU ARE WHAT YOU ARE--

--THE **SUM** TOTAL OF GENETICS, TEACHINGS AND LIFE EXPERIENCES!



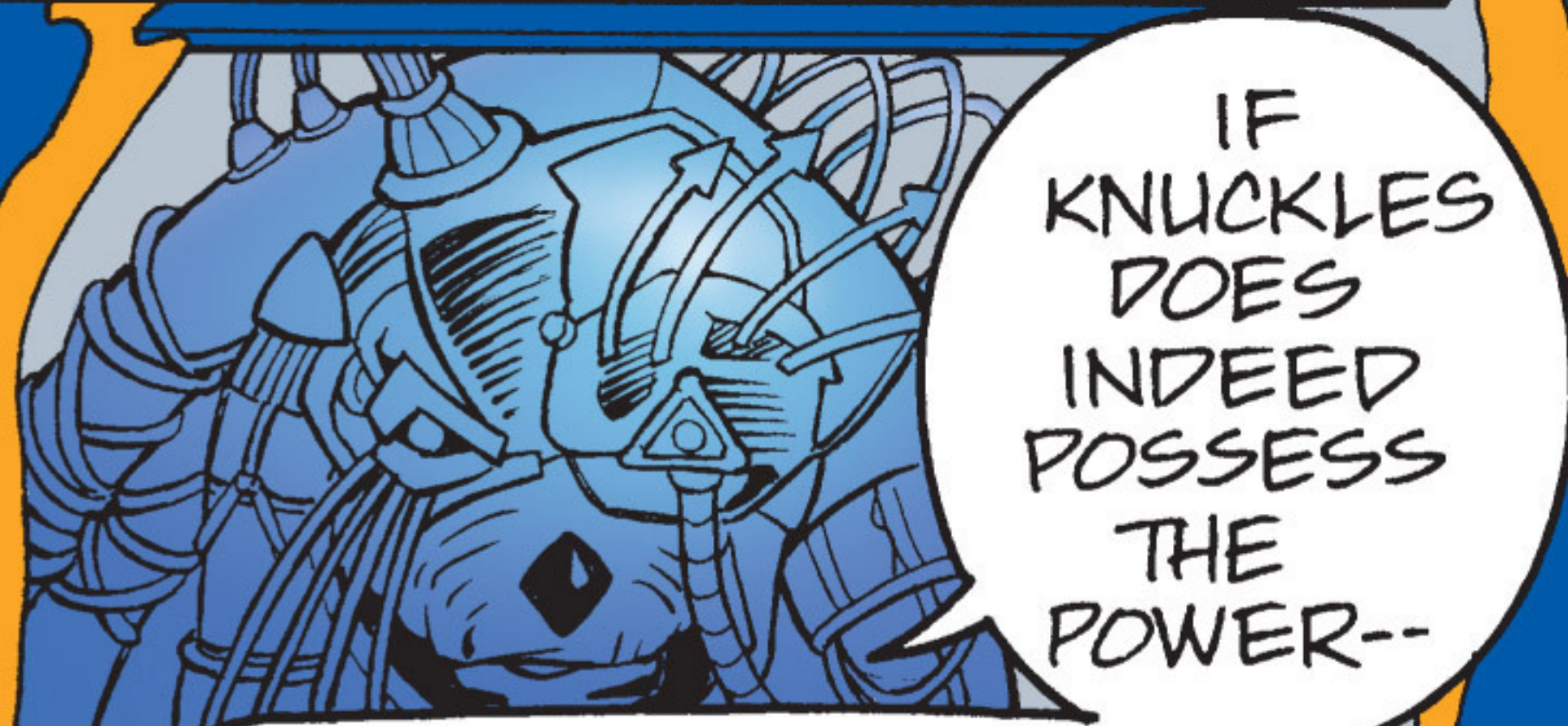
WHEN YOUR BODY BEGAN ITS SEASON OF **BIOLOGICAL** CHANGES--

"--ONLY THEN DID YOU BECOME **AWARE** OF HOW **SPECIAL** YOU TRULY ARE!



WHOA!

"WHEN DIMITRI LEARNED YOU POSSESSED THE **POWER CHAOS** DID HE SEE A MEANS TO **REGAIN** THAT WHICH HE HAD **LOST**--

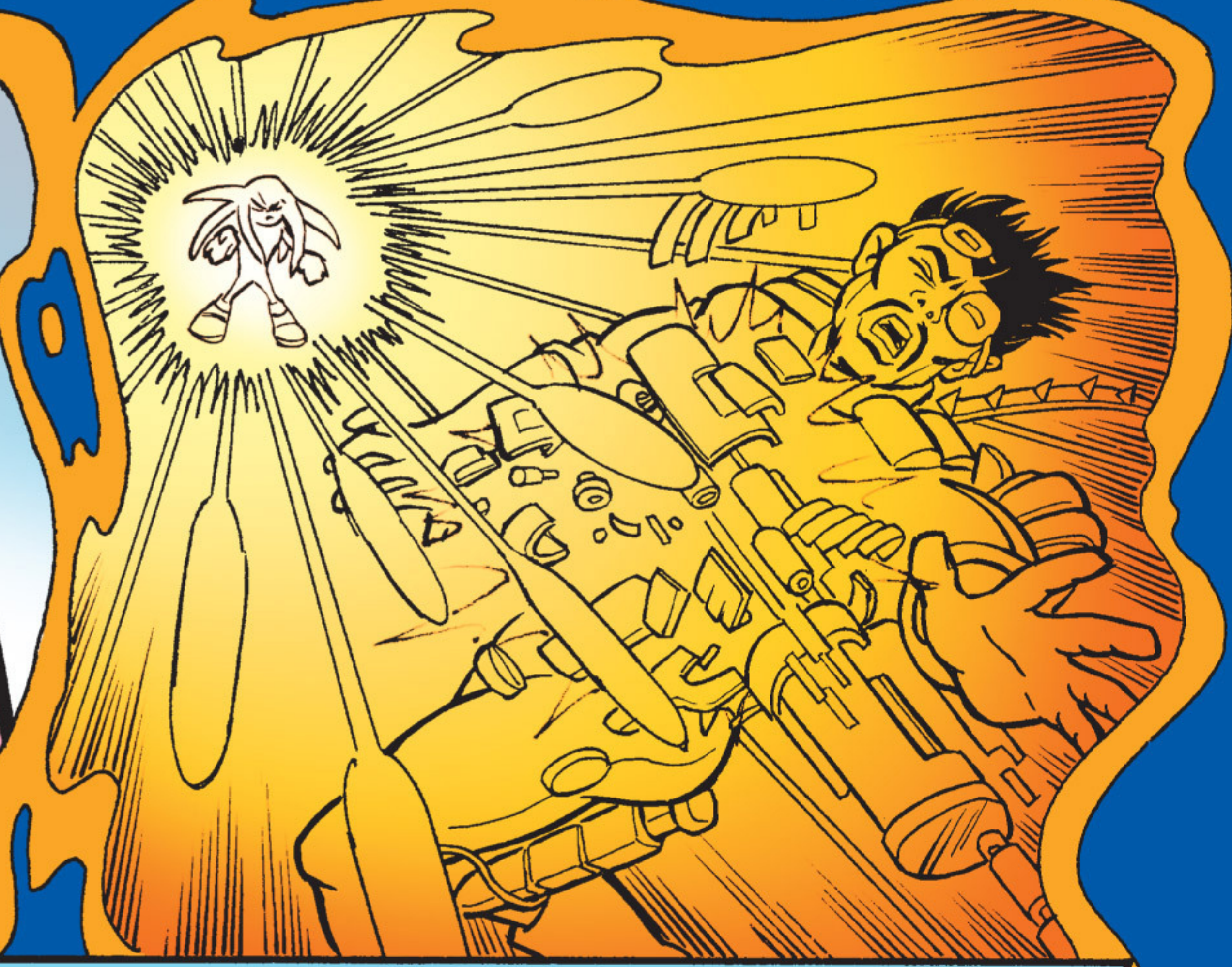
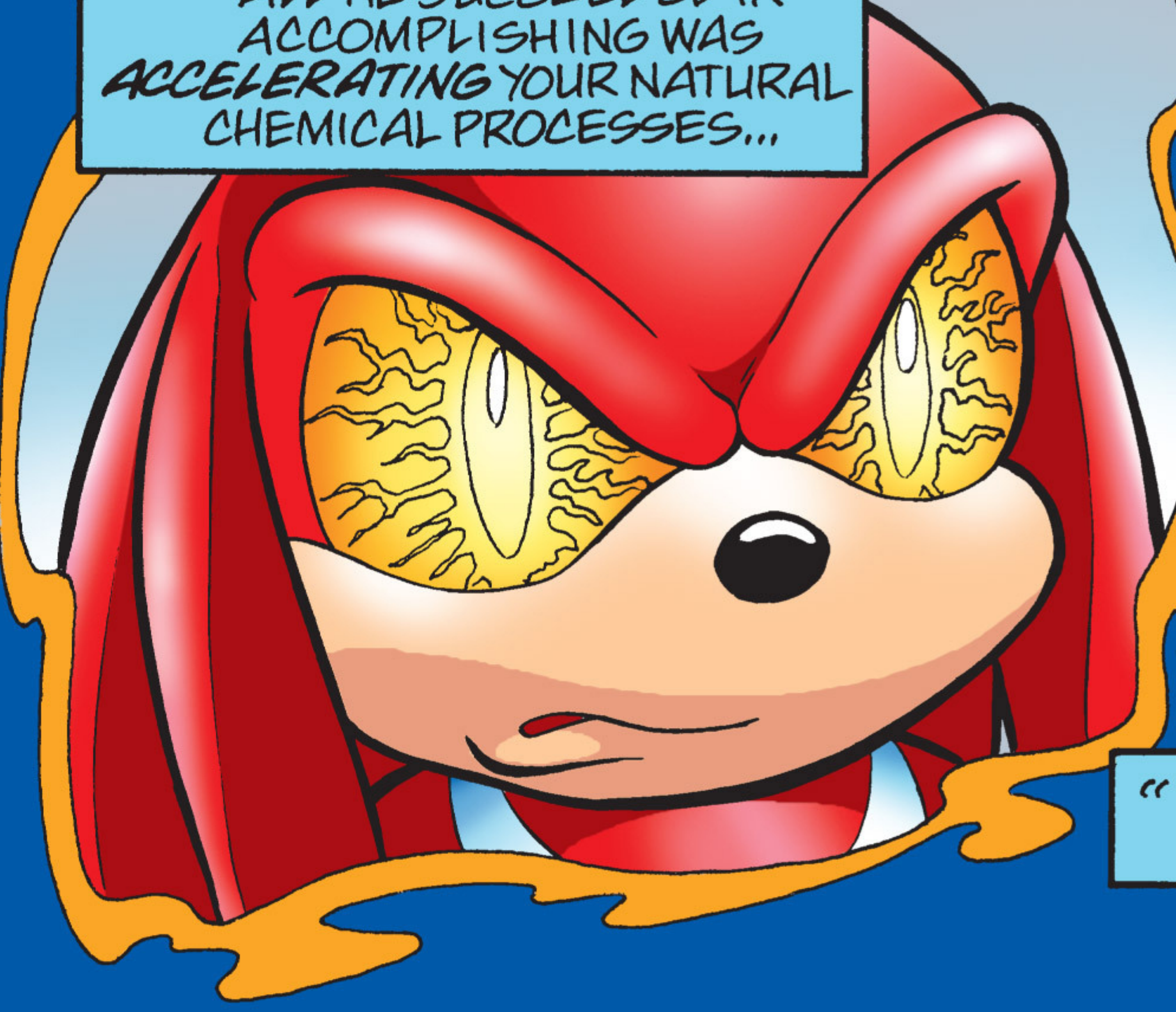


IF **KNUCKLES** DOES INDEED POSSESS THE **POWER**--

--I COULD BE **RESTORED** TO MY FORMER SELF!



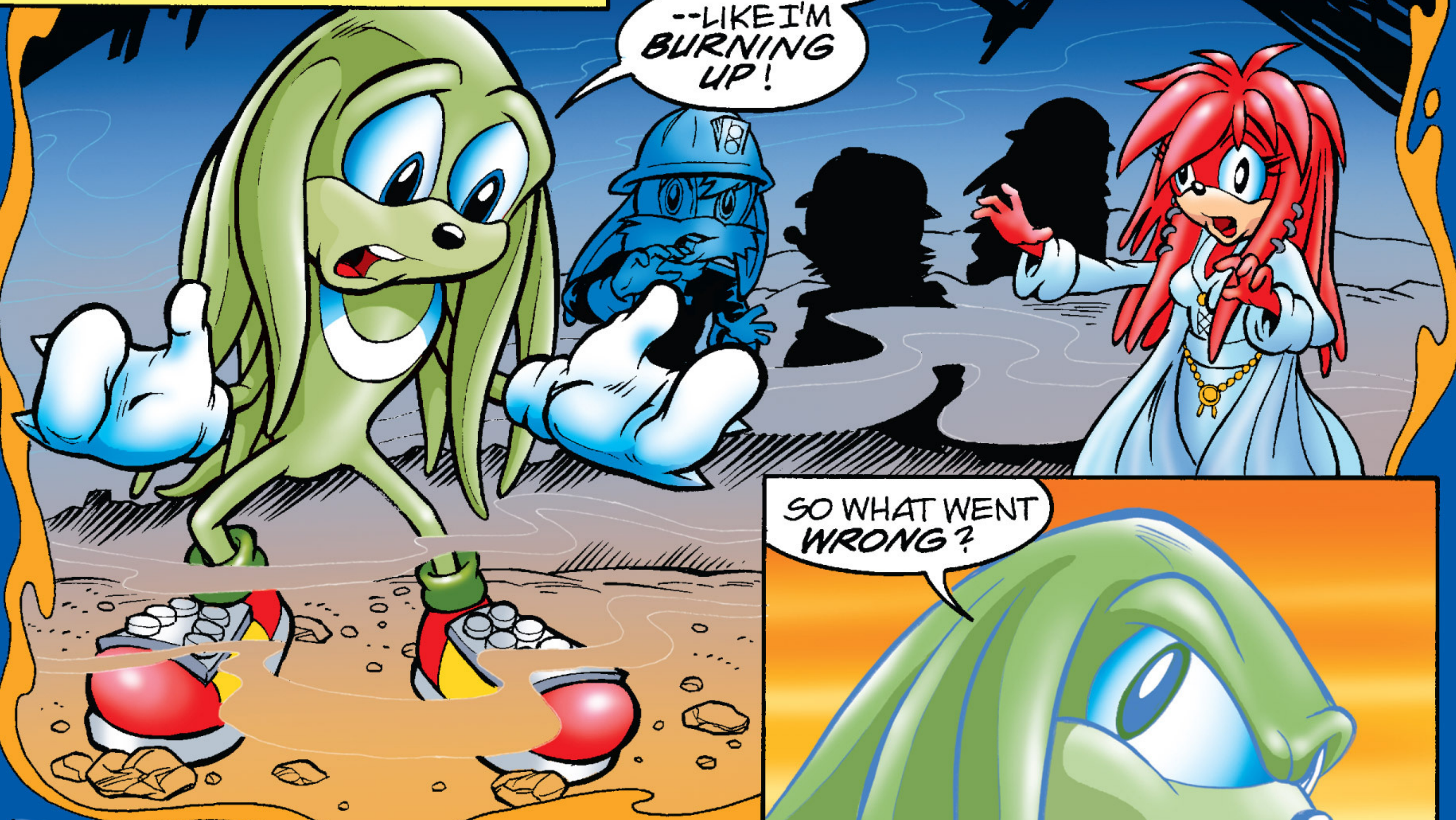
"-- ALL HE SUCCEEDED IN ACCOMPLISHING WAS **ACCELERATING** YOUR NATURAL CHEMICAL PROCESSES...



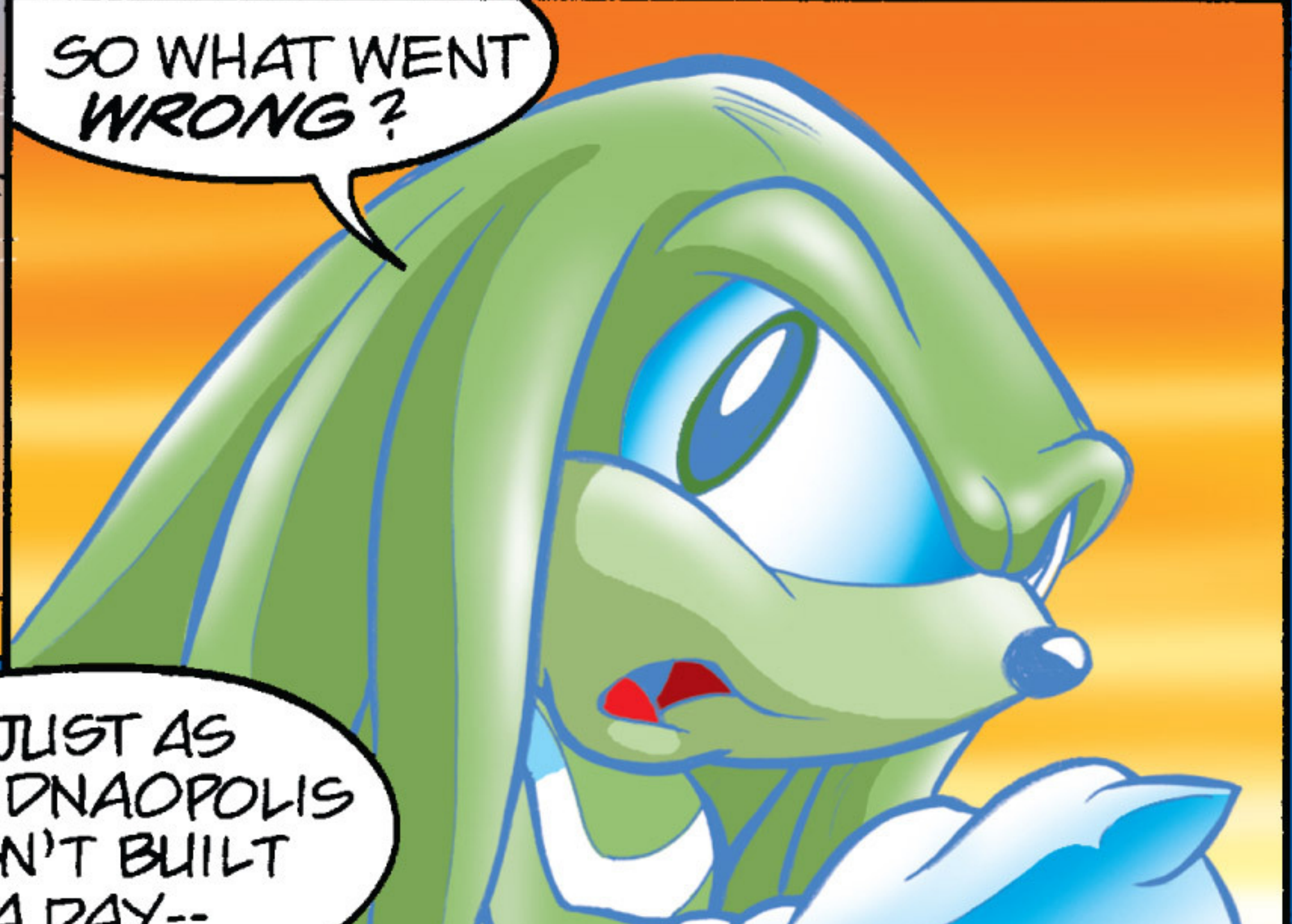
"EACH TIME **DANGER** THREATENED, YOUR **INSTINCTS** REACTED ACCORDINGLY...

"UNTIL FINALLY, YOU WERE PUSHED FAR ENOUGH TO REACH **CRITICAL MASS**, COMPLETING THE PROCESS."

FEELS WEIRD--
--LIKE I'M BURNING UP!

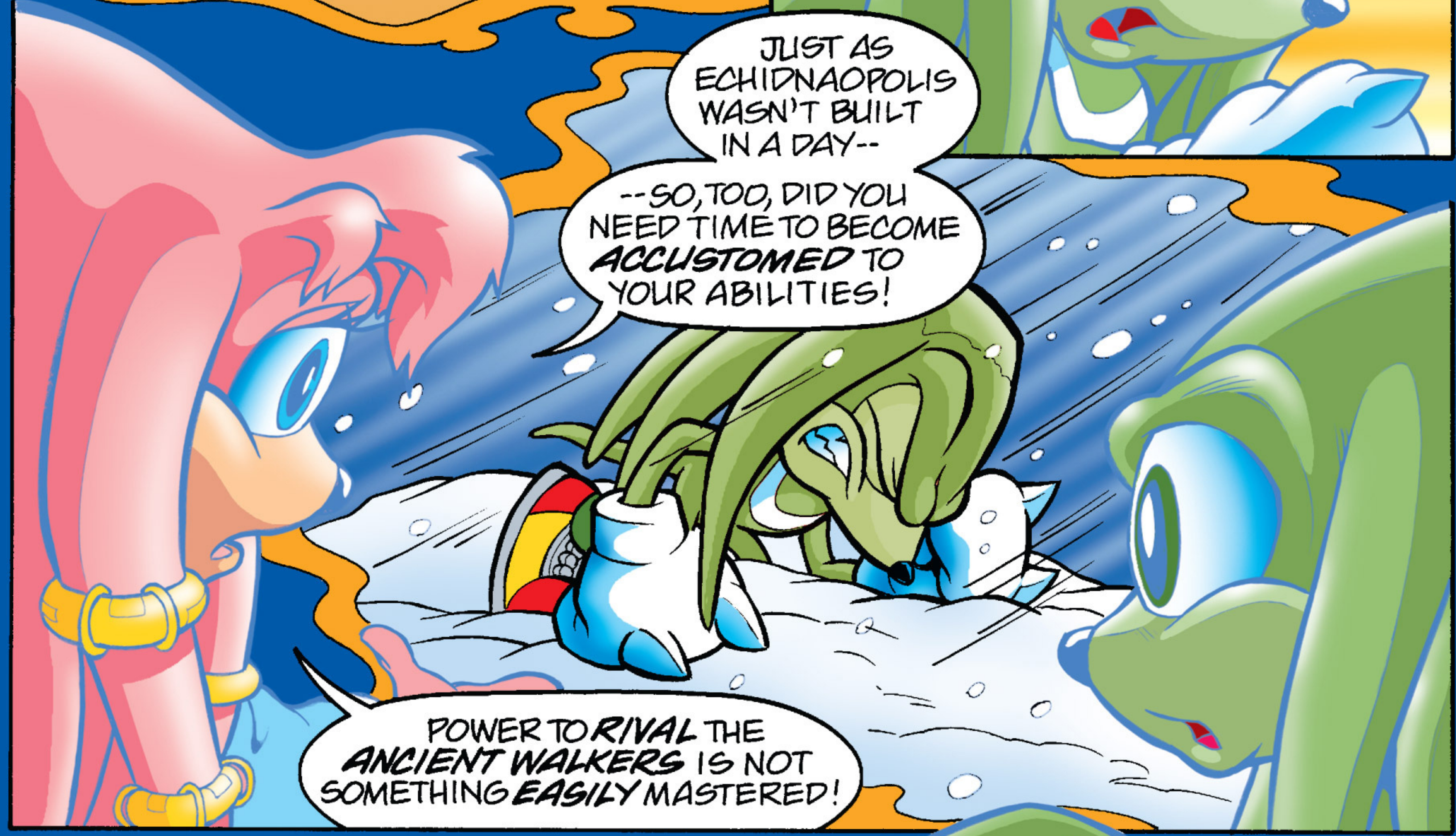


SO WHAT WENT WRONG?



JUST AS ECHIDNAOPOLIS WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY--

--SO, TOO, DID YOU NEED TIME TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO YOUR ABILITIES!

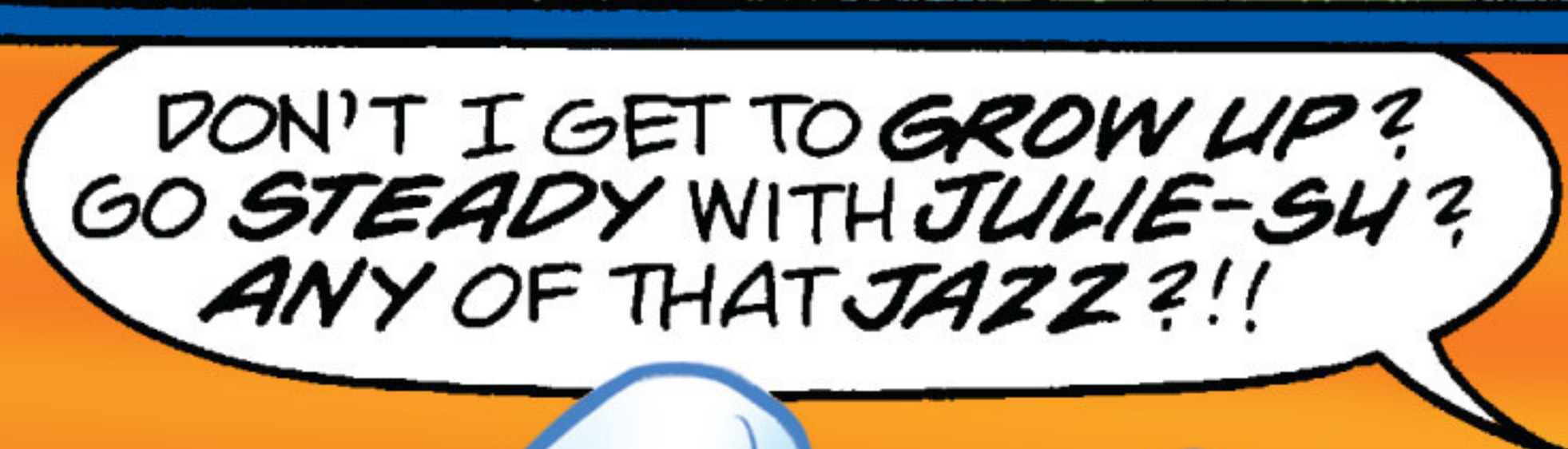
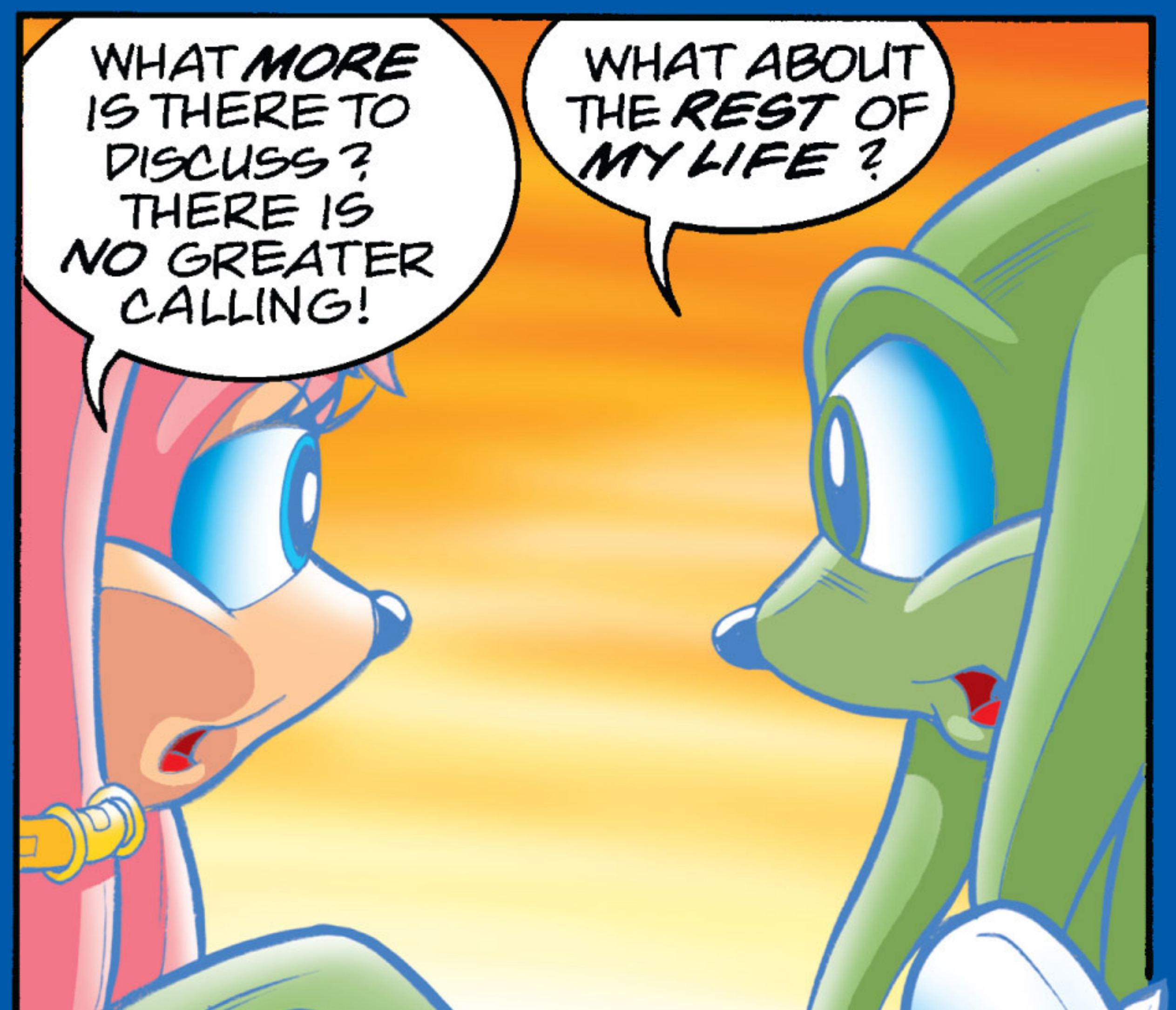
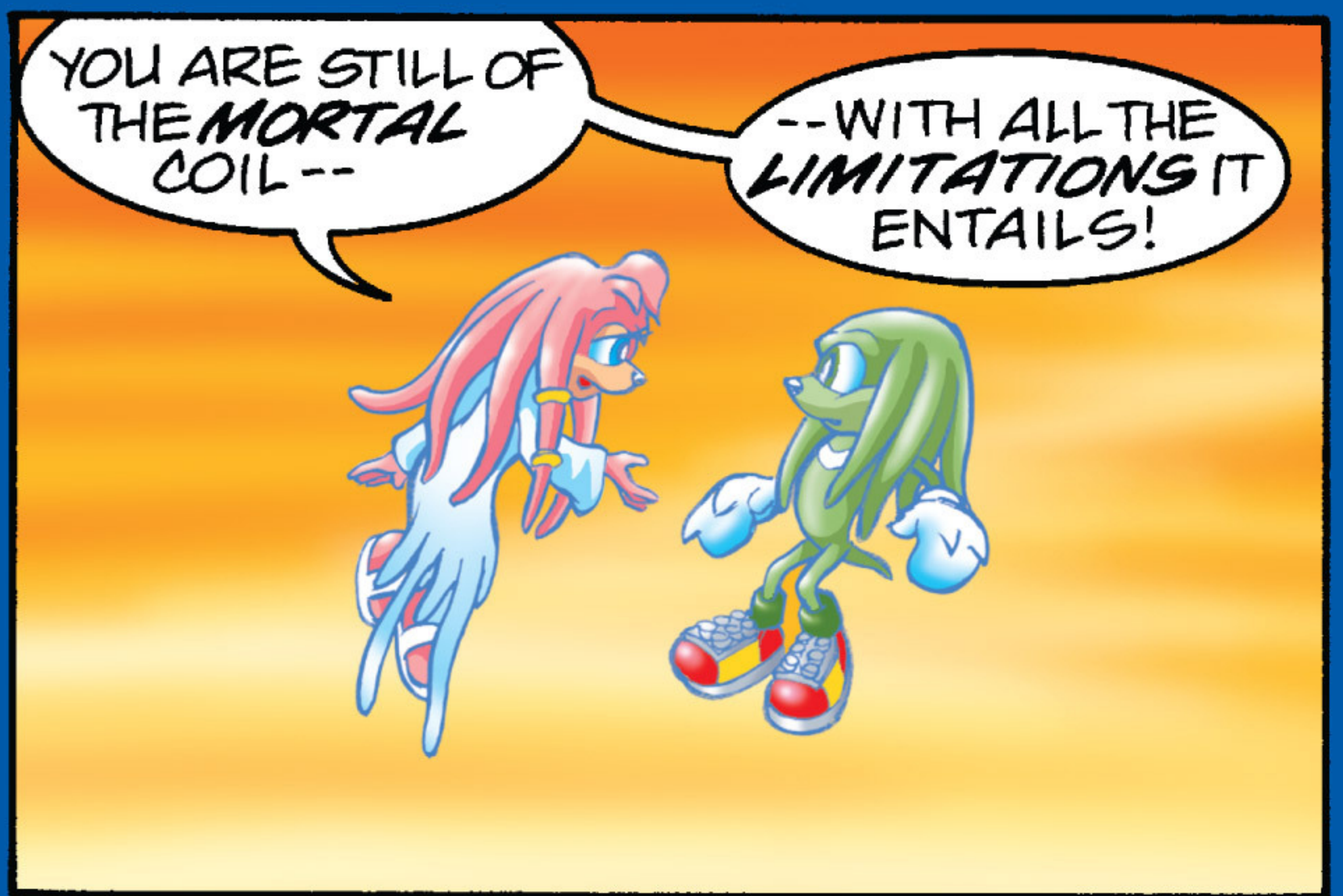
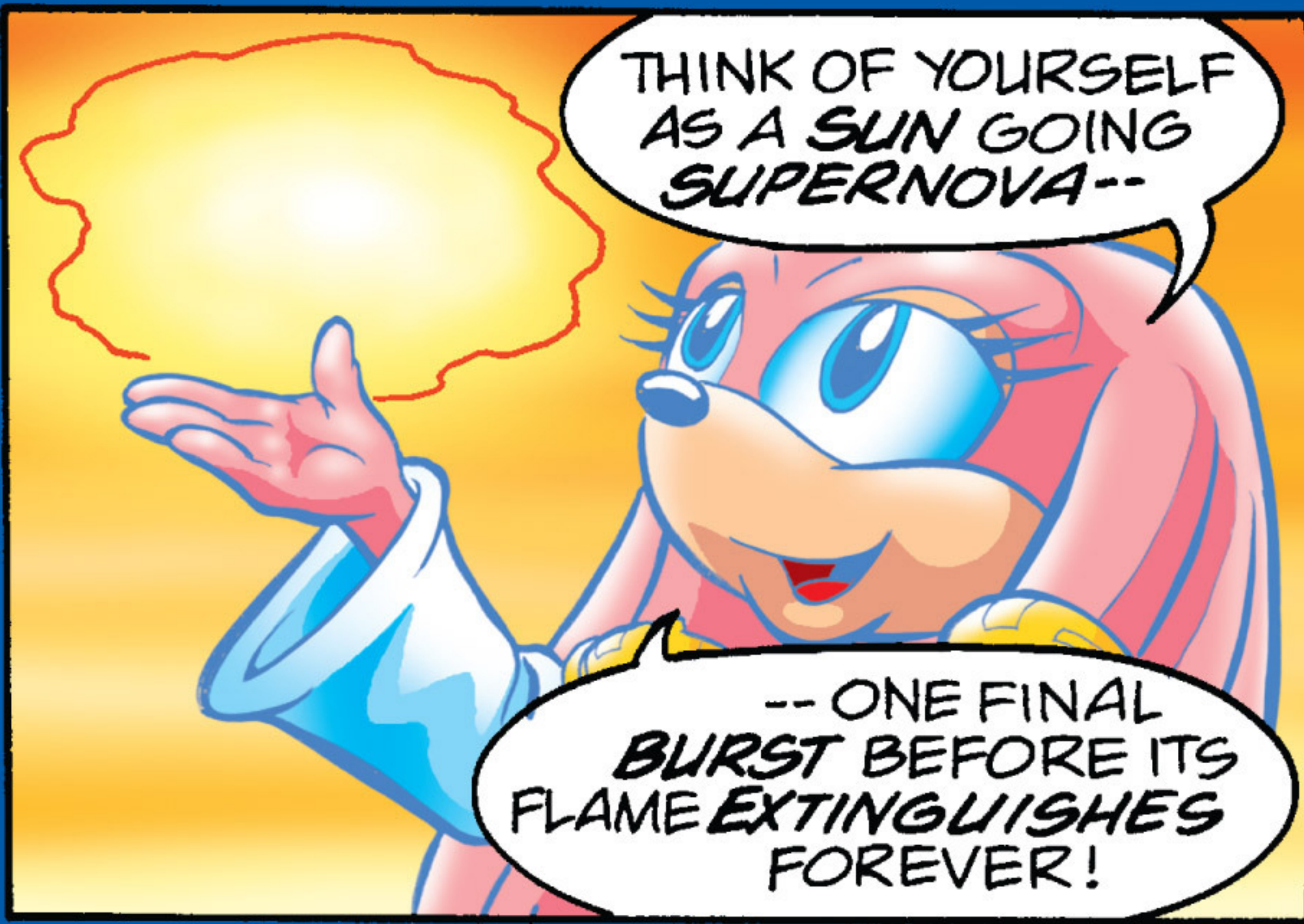


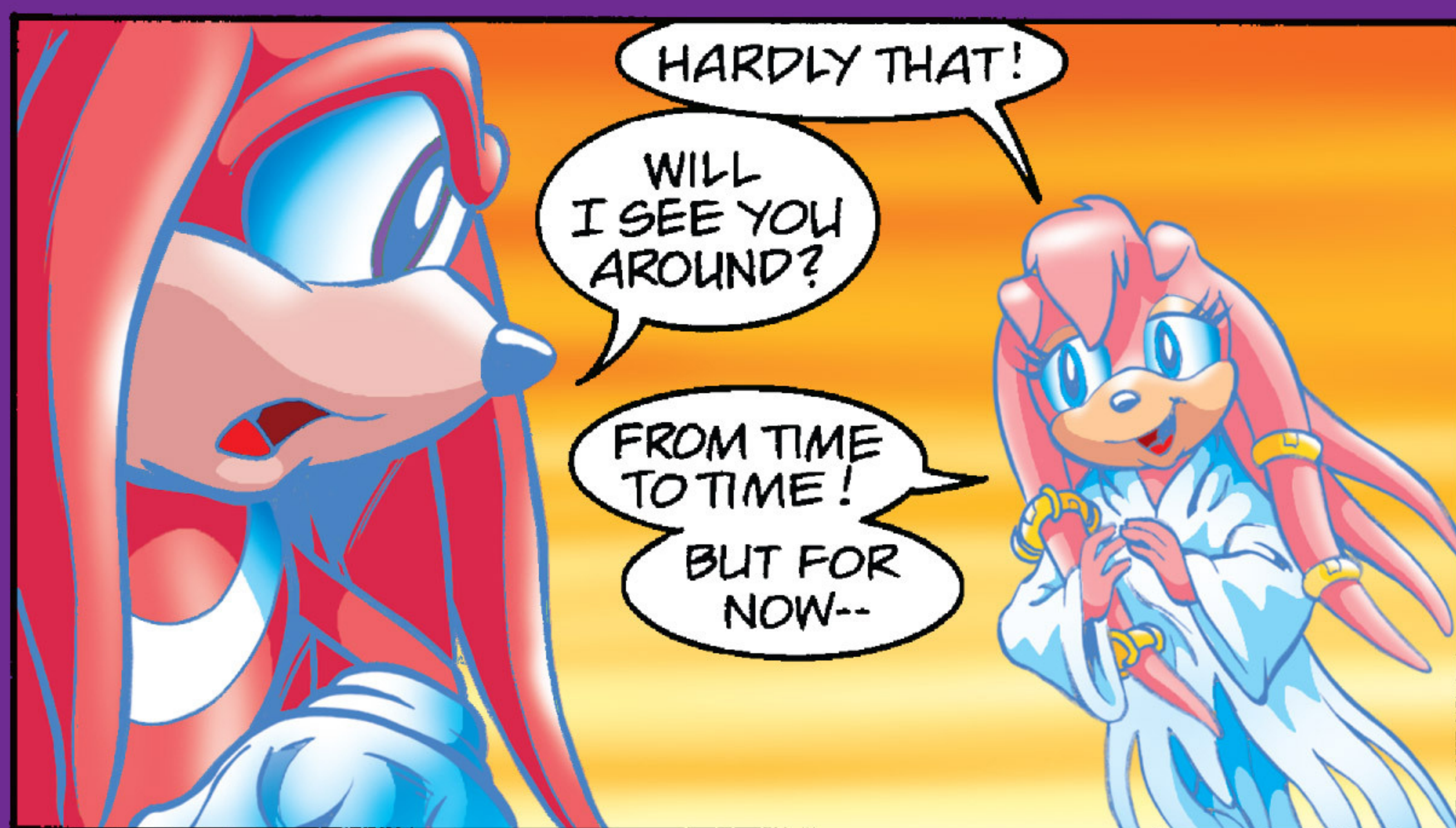
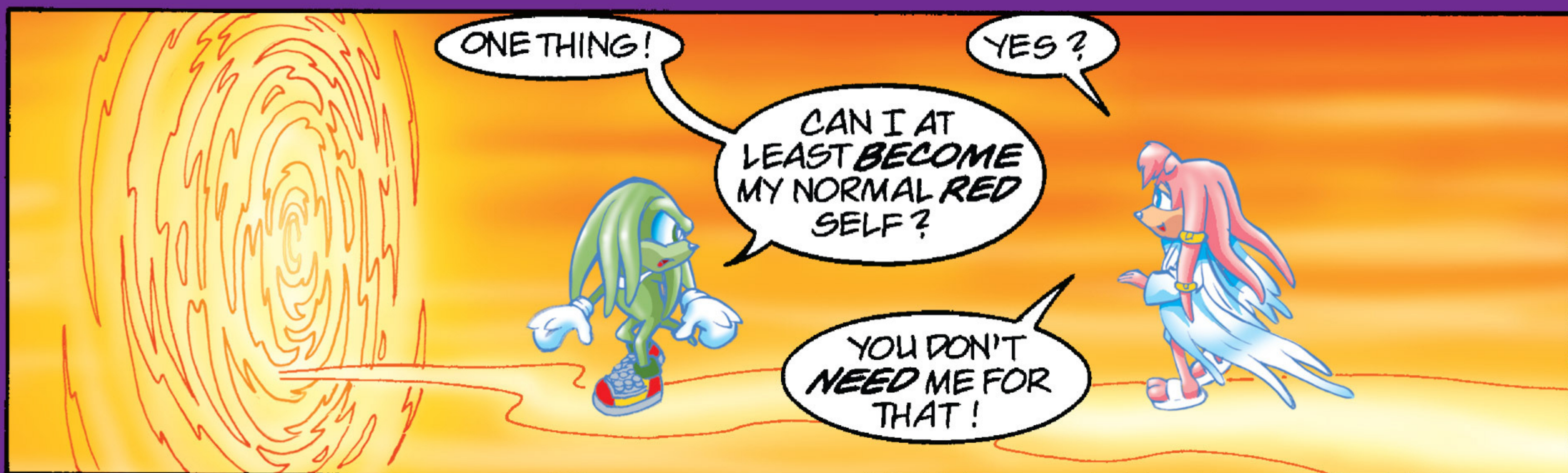
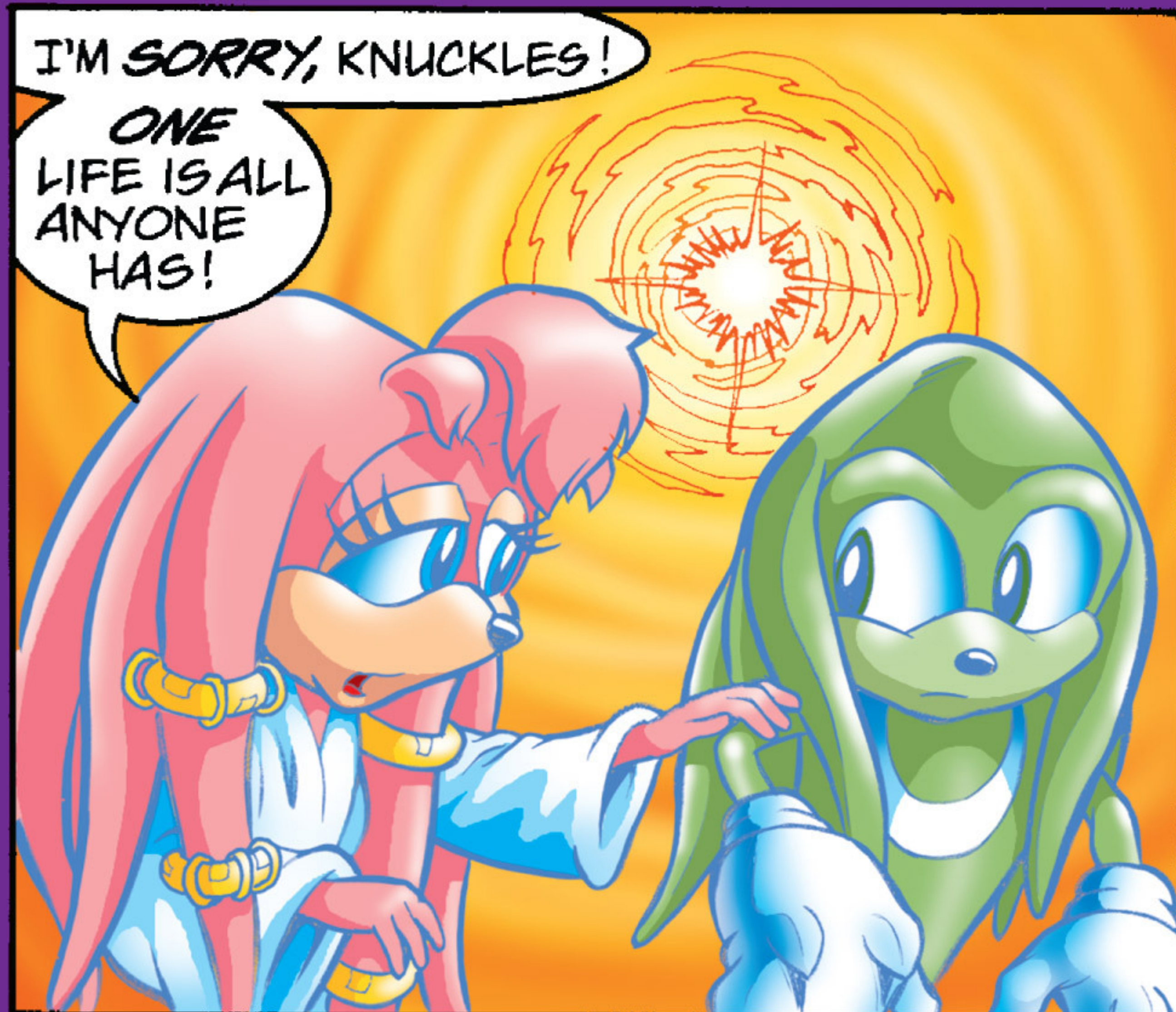
POWER TO RIVAL THE ANCIENT WALKERS IS NOT SOMETHING EASILY MASTERED!

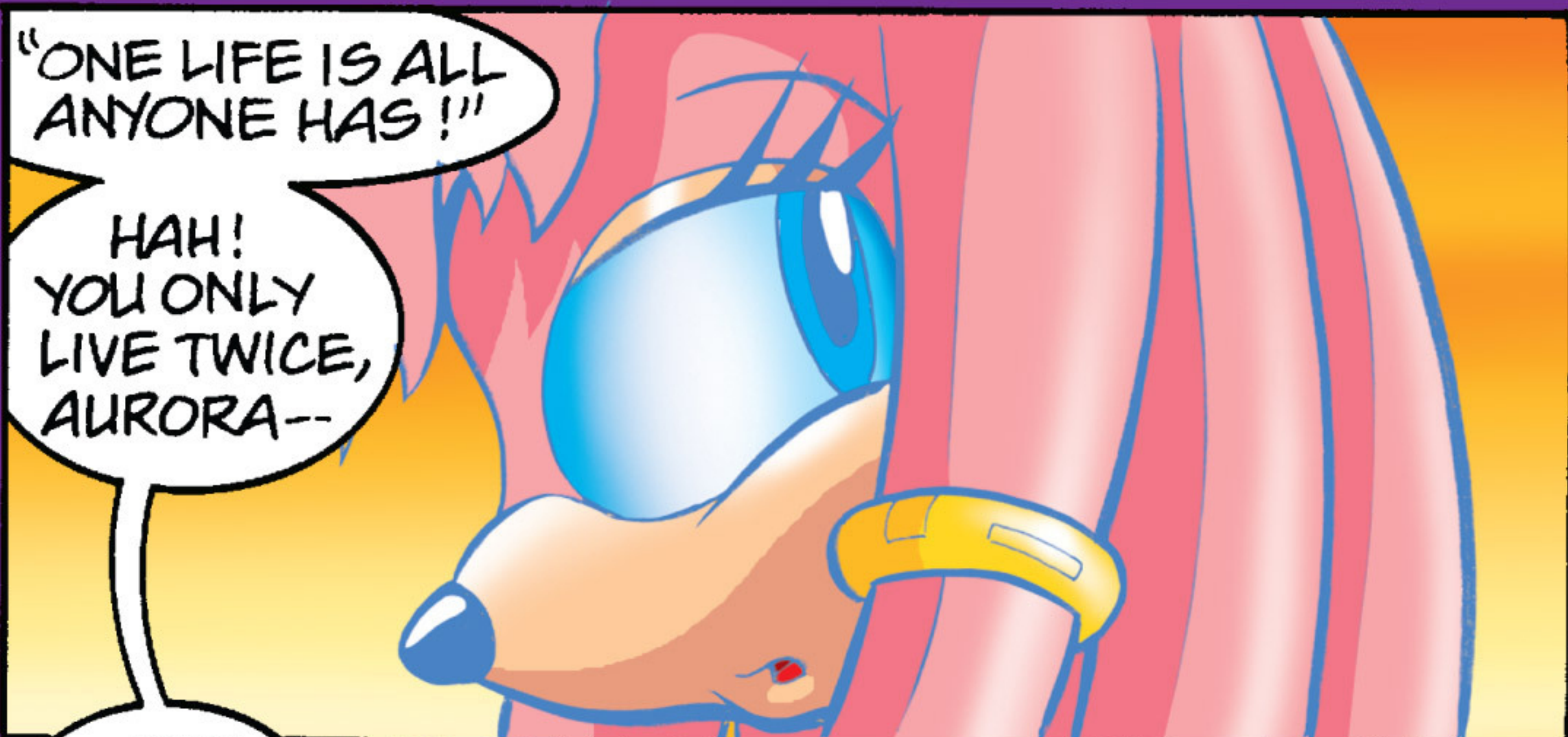
IF I WAS--AM-- WHATEVER--THAT POWERFUL--

--THEN HOW COME I DIED?





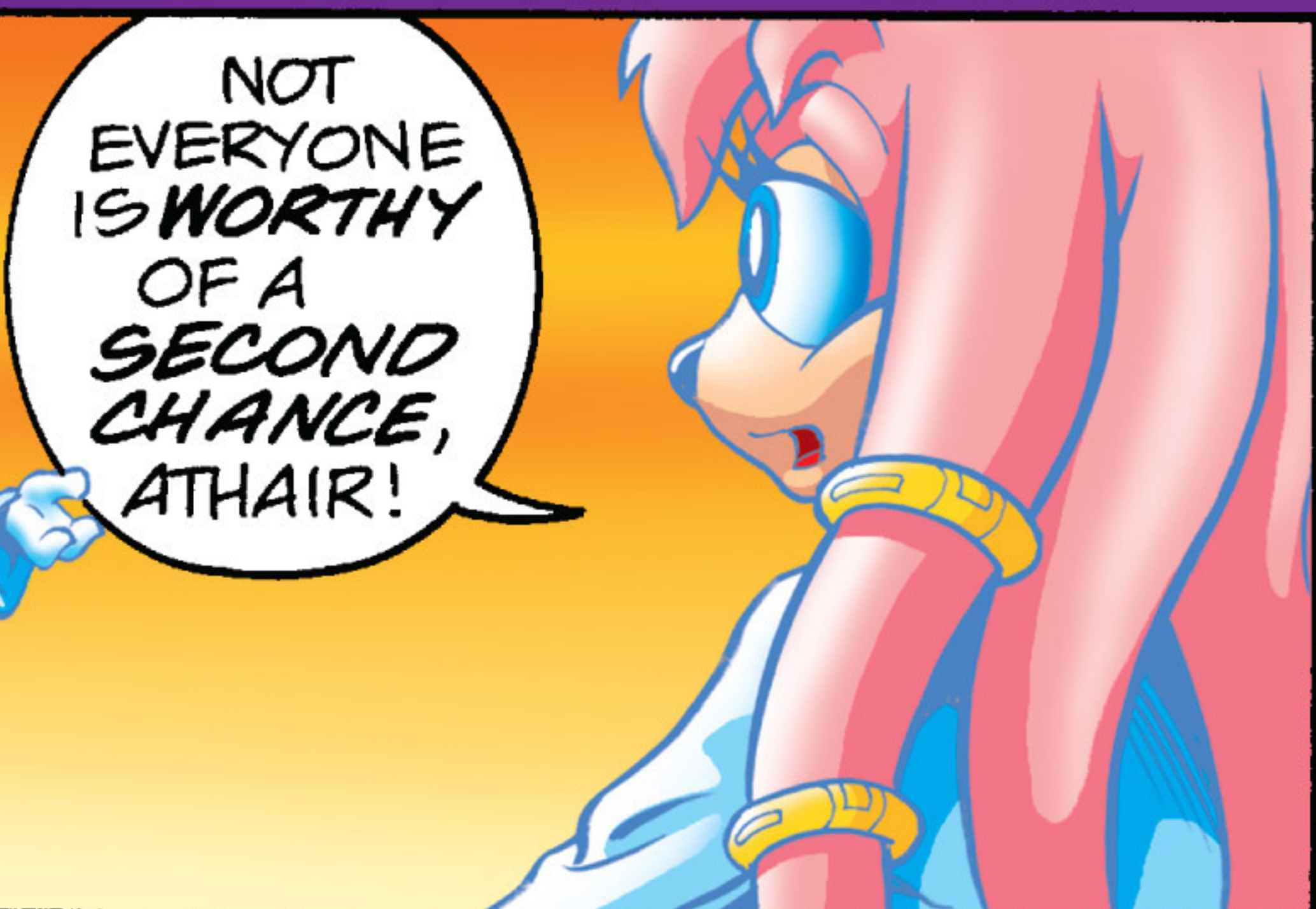




"ONE LIFE IS ALL ANYONE HAS!"

HAH! YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE, AURORA--

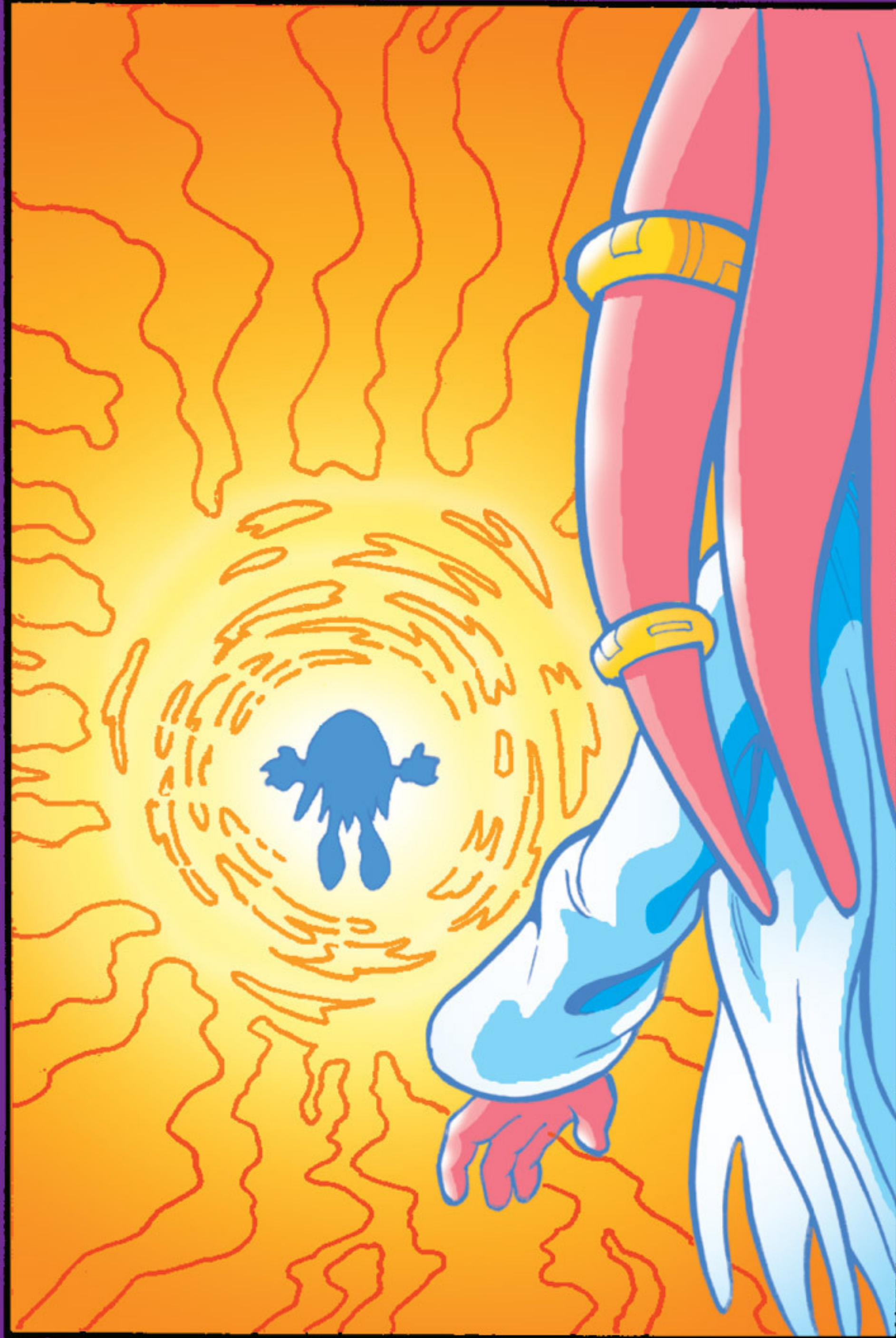
--YOU KNOW THAT!



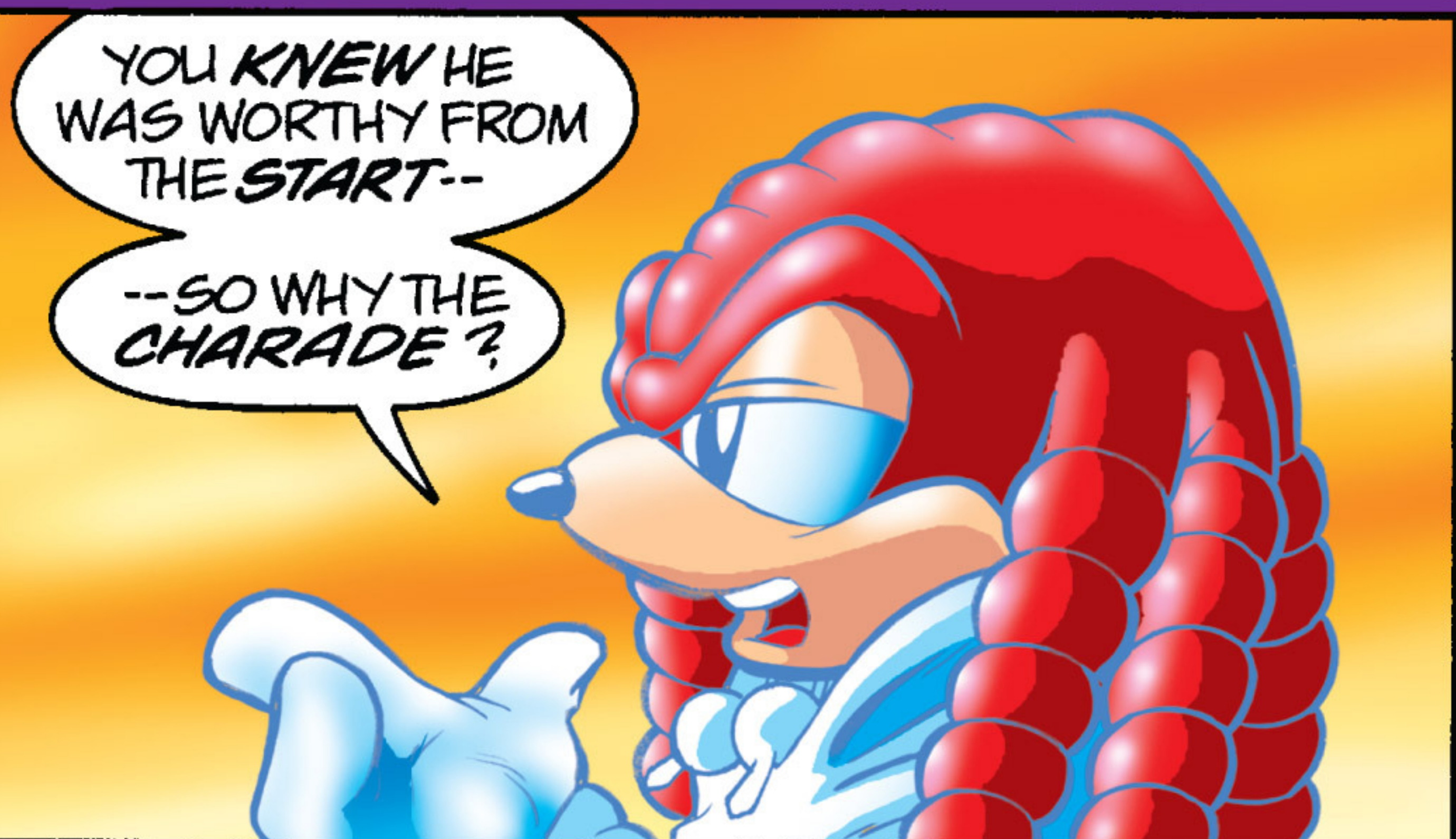
NOT EVERYONE IS WORTHY OF A SECOND CHANCE, ATHAIR!



--YOU KNOW THAT!

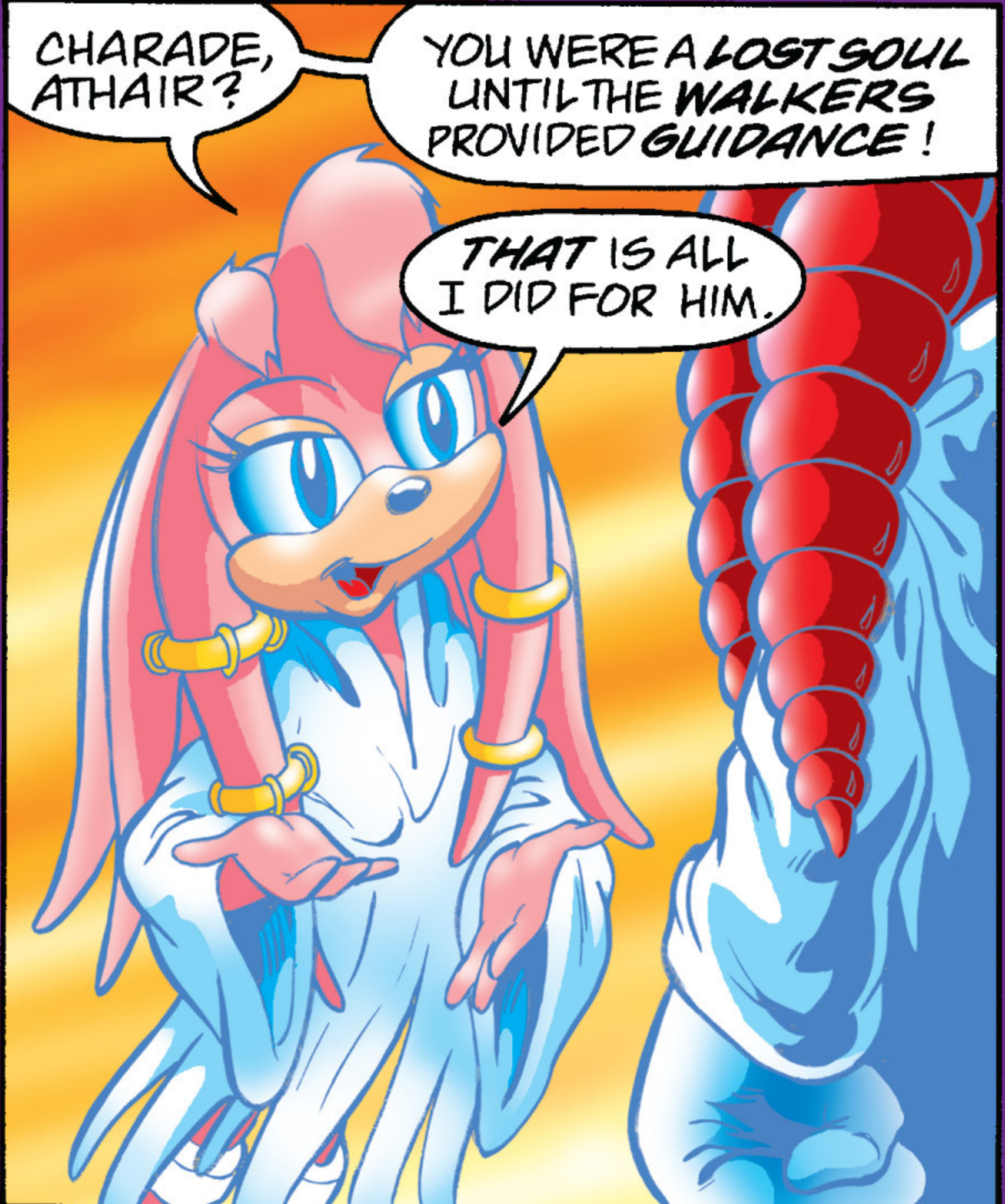


OF WHICH YOU'RE WELL AWARE!



YOU KNEW HE WAS WORTHY FROM THE START--

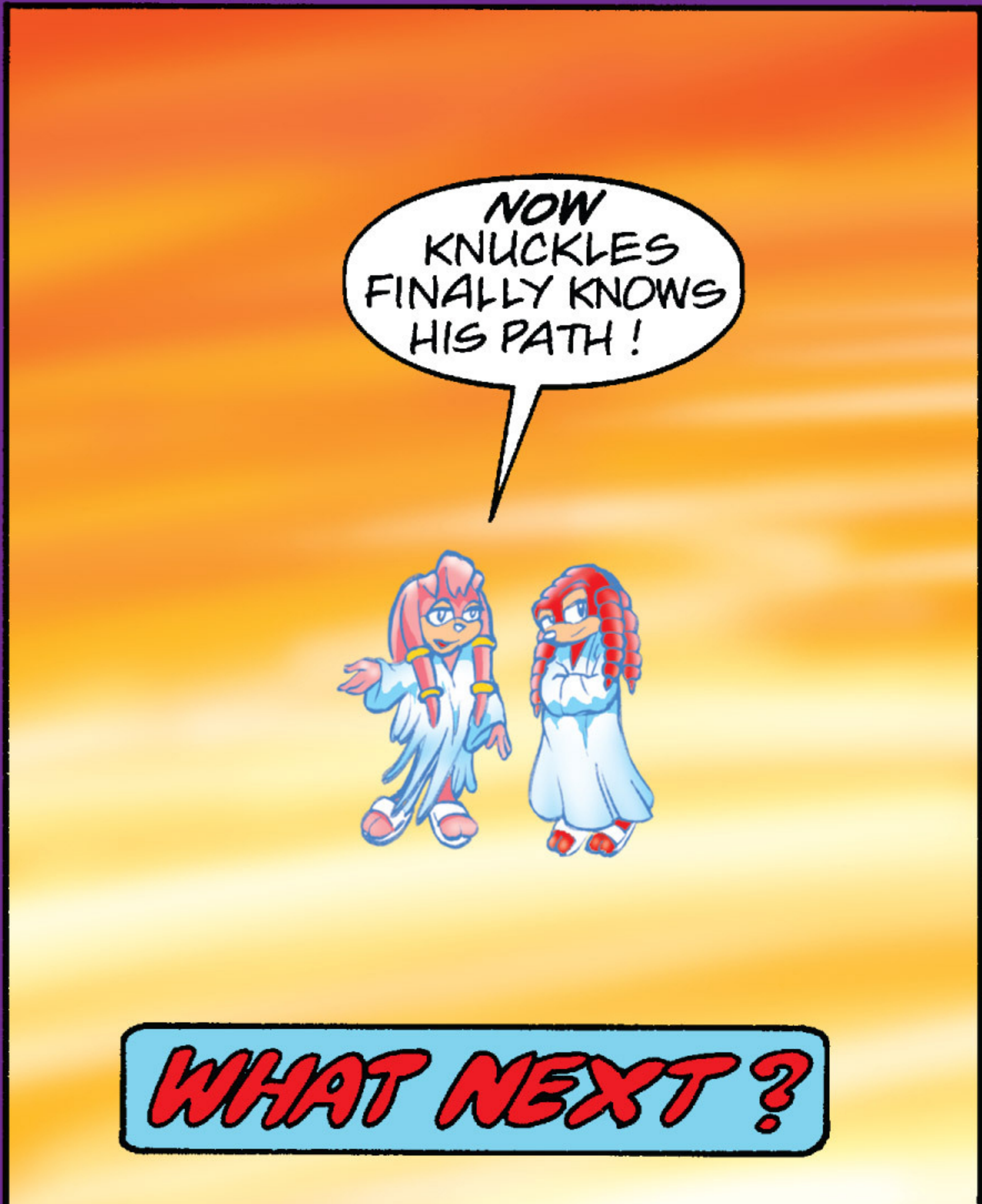
--SO WHY THE CHARADE?



CHARADE, ATHAIR?

YOU WERE A LOST SOUL UNTIL THE WALKERS PROVIDED GUIDANCE!

THAT IS ALL I DID FOR HIM.



NOW KNUCKLES FINALLY KNOWS HIS PATH!

WHAT NEXT?